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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-163 *23 August 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

PLO-Israeli Talks on Early Empowerment Resume

Sha'th, Rothschild Comment

NC2208111894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—A new round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on the early empowerment of the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank resumed in Cairo today. The Palestinian side is being led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the authority, and the Israeli side by General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of the Israeli Government activity in the occupied territories. During this round, the two sides will discuss a number of outstanding issues, particularly those concerning taxes and the budget.

Speaking to journalists before the session, Dr. Sha'th said that during this round they will work to finalize the early empowerment in accordance with the agreement concluded in Alexandria during the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee.

On the delay in reopening the secure passages between Gaza and Jericho, Dr. Sha'th said that the delay was because of technical problems. He added that the Security Liaison Committee has not been informed so the opening has been delayed. He noted that he will talk to president Yasir 'Arafat on this matter. He pointed out that the Prisoners Affairs Committee will meet on Wednesday at the Erez crossing, adding that Israel is expected to release 250 prisoners.

Gen. Rothschild voiced optimism that the current round will be the last for the transfer of powers and the conclusion of an agreement on the issues under discussion. He added that the talks will deal with the questions of taxes and the budget. The talks are scheduled to last until Wednesday.

Peres on Education, Taxation

TA2208105794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] This week, Israel and the PLO will sign an agreement on early empowerment in the West Bank. Today, as the Israel-PLO talks resume in Cairo, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the education sphere will be handed over to the Palestinians as soon as next Monday [29 August]. Our political correspondent Udi Segal heard the foreign minister:

[Begin Peres recording] In practice, we have reached an agreement on early empowerment on the other three operative spheres of health, social welfare, and tourism. The main problem is in the fifth sphere, taxation. The problem is how to collect income tax and value added tax, and how to avoid dual taxation because both parties will be collecting taxes since we will still be in charge of many issues. On this as well, some solution guidelines are emerging, and I believe we will reach a solution by the end of the week. [end recording]

Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am believes that early empowerment on tourism issues in the West Bank could be completed within a few weeks. Our correspondent Yiftah El'azar reports that Minister Bar'am made the remarks after meeting this morning with his counterpart at the Palestinian Authority, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj.

Bar'am, Frayj Discuss Tourism Projects

TA2208170294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am says that after early empowerment is implemented in the territories, Palestinians will, for the first time since 1967, be in civilian control of this year's Christmas festivities in Bethlehem. Bar'am made the statement in a meeting today with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who holds the tourism portfolio in the Palestinian Authority. Both sides also agreed that immediately after early empowerment begins, Israel and the Palestinians will turn to Jordan to work on a trilateral development plan for tourist resorts in the Dead Sea area. More from reporter Dick Winter:

[Begin Winter recording] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am would not confirm that early empowerment in the realm of tourism throughout the West Bank will be implemented as early as the end of this week, but he did say an agreement was very close. His counterpart, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who holds the tourism portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, told reporters that patience was needed. [passage omitted]

Most of today's meeting focused not on tying up the loose ends of early empowerment and tourism but on a joint Israeli-Palestinian marketing scheme to bring more tourists to Bethlehem for the Christmas holiday, when, for the first time, 'Uzi Bar'am says, the Palestinians will be in charge. [passage omitted]

Speaking about longer term prospects, both tourism ministers agree that if an accord can be reached with Syria, rounding out a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, then the numbers of tourists arriving here could double in 1995, with Mayor Frayj adding that in the era of peace, he expects as many as 1 million Arab tourists to visit his city. [end recording]

Sha'th on Covenant, Statehood Remarks

TA2208163794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Nabil Sha'th rejects remarks by Abu-Nizar [Sakhr Habash], a Fatah Central Committee member, who said that Yasir 'Arafat seeks to create a linkage between the annulment of Palestinian Covenant clauses and Israeli

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recognition of a Palestinian state. Speaking to reporters in Cairo, Sha'th said that the PLO leadership and Fatah have not endorsed any resolution saying that preconditions should be posed before the covenant clauses are annulled and that Abu-Nizar's remarks are nothing but his own opinion.

Sha'th Views Elections, PLO Charter

NC2208180794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation at the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has said that Egypt is playing a major and basic role in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Egypt is not an observer, but "an objective partner" on the side of Palestinian rights, he said.

In a statement to MENA, Sha'th said Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat takes every opportunity to inform President Husni Mubarak of developments. This is necessary for two partners working for a just peace with the Palestine question at its center, he said.

Sha'th hoped President Mubarak will visit Gaza as soon as possible, noting that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will visit Gaza soon and meet in Jerusalem with Faysal al-Husayni, the PNA official in charge of Jerusalem affairs. He also noted that Musa will visit Israel at the end of August for meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Dr. Sha'th praised the role of Egypt and President Mubarak in healing the Palestinian-Gulf rift and opening the door to normal cooperation to support the Palestinian cause.

On a question about an early transfer of power to the Palestinian Authority, Dr. Sha'th said: In the recent meetings of the Liaison Committee in Alexandria, we committed ourselves to completing everything related to the early empowerment by next Wednesday. The implementation in the area of education began yesterday, and all preparatory work will end by 29 August, when the Palestinian authority takes over responsibility for all education in the West Bank.

Sha'th said discussion of other important issues such as taxes and the general budget should be completed this week.

The Palestinian official accused Israel of procrastination as far as the legislative elections are concerned. He expressed his belief that all Arab and international forces wanting genuine democracy in Palestinian society should support the Palestinian Authority.

He reiterated the need for the elections to be held as soon as possible because they are the source of national Palestinian legitimacy and legitimacy for the Palestinian leadership, which must contest the elections so that it can express the true opinion of the Palestinian people.

Concerning the Palestine National Council [PNC], Sha'th said: We want it to convene in Gaza, but not for signing what the Israelis want to be signed. We want the meeting to be free, with all PNC members having the right to reside in Palestine. This is a precondition, and without this, no meeting can be arranged to discuss a subject as serious as amending the Palestinian national Charter.

He expressed the belief that the PNC will meet after the elections. Then, he said, there will be an elected Palestinian delegation from inside [the West Bank and Gaza] to represent Palestinians there, and this will give the PNC more legitimacy to pass a serious resolution like the amendment of the Charter.

Sha'th explained, however, that this does not mean the PLO, as the leadership, is not committed to raising the subject and defending its opinion as expressed in the Declaration of Principles and the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

Sha'th called on Israel to speed up the process of early empowerment of the Palestinians.

'Real Progress' Said Achieved in Talks

TA2308062994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] Real progress was achieved during the first day of deliberations which ended in Cairo yesterday. Representatives of the Israeli and PLO delegations began work on formulating the draft agreement on the transfer of powers to the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria. The outline of the agreement was determined, and it will encompass about 25 pages, including a general preamble which will define the powers transferred to the Palestinians, the arrangements involved in enforcing the powers, and the Palestinians' budget structure necessary to implement the powers in Judaea and Samaria. The second part of the agreement will specify the agreements in the five spheres: education and culture, health, tourism, social welfare, and direct taxation.

Sources in the Israeli delegation noted that negotiations continue with the Palestinians on the transfer of powers on direct taxation, namely, income tax and value added tax, and on the Palestinians' budgetary structure for the financing of the powers they will undertake and implement.

At the same time, Dani Rothschild, the head of the Israeli delegation, expressed optimism yesterday, estimating that the current round of talks in Cairo will be the last one and that all problems will be solved. The two delegation heads, Major General Rothschild and Nabil Sha'th, were of the opinion that the agreement on early empowerment would be signed in Cairo tomorrow.

It should be noted that upon the implementation of the agreement, the Palestinian Authority will operate in

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Judaea and Samaria in parallel with the continued activity of the Civil Administration and under the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] aegis. The process of passing the education facilities to the Palestinians will begin tomorrow. The Civil Administration will hand over Ramallah area schools, educational institutions, and the offices of the education department. The same will take place in Nabulus, Janin, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm on Thursday, and in Bethlehem and Hebron on Sunday, so as to properly prepare for Monday, 29 August, the official date set in Alexandria for the completion of the transfer of education powers prior to the start of the school year.

Agreement Initialing Planned

NC2308101594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators resumed negotiations on early empowerment in the West Bank this morning cochaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], and General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of Israeli Government activity in the occupied territories.

The two sides will complete their discussion of outstanding issues before initialing an agreement on early empowerment tomorrow.

Dr. Sha'th said yesterday that the two sides will work round the clock to conclude their discussion of the remaining points connected with taxation, the budget, and social affairs.

Israel Said To Offer Syria Phased Golan Pullout

JN2208200594 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Aug 94 pp 1, 26

[Excerpt] Cairo, Jerusalem, Amman—AL-ITTIHAD and news agencies—[passage omitted] Responsible Egyptian sources in Cairo disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD yesterday new Israeli proposals for peace with Syria and Lebanon. The proposals were conveyed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to Egypt the day before yesterday [17 August], and were carried to Damascus yesterday by Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish.

The sources said that these proposals provide for a three-phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The first phase would begin as soon as a peace treaty is signed with Syria in January or February 1995. During that phase, Israel would withdraw from 30 percent of the Golan Heights, provided that this is accompanied by a partial normalization of relations between the two sides, represented by opening liaison offices in both Damascus and Tel Aviv.

The second phase of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan would start in July 1996, during which embassies could be opened and normalization would start in all fields. During that phase, Israel would withdraw from another 30 percent of the Golan. The third and final phase would end in June 1997 by withdrawal from the remainder of the Golan Heights, provided that by then, Syria and Israel would have already started launching projects for joint bilateral multilateral cooperation along with Egypt, Jordan, the PLO, and Lebanon.

The responsible Egyptian sources indicated that Peres also offered withdrawal from southern Lebanon to be completed by the end of 1995 after a peace agreement is reached with Lebanon early 1995, provided that the withdrawing Israeli forces are replaced by international troops for a period of three-four years. In accordance with this proposal, Lebanon should vow to control all areas of the south and halt any anti-Israeli activities.

The Syrian response to these proposals is expected to be made during Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Syria on 30 August.

The informed sources said that the Egyptian president asked Peres that these proposals be amended so that the duration of withdrawal from the Golan is reduced.

At the same time, the Israeli foreign minister proposed that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations be moved from Washington to the Egyptian Taba area. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Leader Urges Support for Palestinians

LD2008190594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Hamid Algabid, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general, has urged the international community to provide all forms of support to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority, particularly at this stage, during which it has started removing traces of occupation and building its national institutions and national authority on the territory of its homeland.

In a statement issued today on the occasion of the Islamic day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, Dr. Algabid said that after 27 year of Israeli occupation of Jerusalem, Israeli occupation authorities continue to implement their plans aimed at Judaizing the holy city and obliterating its Arab and Islamic landmarks. Israeli occupation authorities also continue their policies of confiscating land and property in and around the city, building further settlements in it, and banning Palestinian citizens from repairing their houses.

Dr. Algabid recalled the international community's condemnation, through resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and other UN bodies, of these practices and acts, which are a breach of all international conventions

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and resolutions of international legitimacy, which consider the Israeli measures in Holy Jerusalem as invalid and null.

Algabid stressed the ICO's support for the Middle East peace process aimed at finding a just and comprehensive settlement for the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict, and for the agreements concluded within the framework of the Middle East peace process.

Algabid said that the issue of Holy Jerusalem remains the core of the conflict in the Middle East region, and is an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1967, and the same applies to other areas also subjected to occupation. Any just and comprehensive should guarantee the restoration of Jerusalem to Arab-Islamic sovereignty as a capital of Palestine.

Islamic Conference Passes Recommendations

NC1908150194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 19 Aug (MENA)—The Higher Council for Islamic Affairs Sixth General Conference has emphasized the Arab character of Jerusalem and its historical and religious importance. It said that peace-loving people are responsible for liberating it as the historical capital of Palestine, safeguarding its holy places and guaranteeing freedom of worship for all religions.

In recommendations passed today at the conclusion of four days of work in Alexandria, the Conference appealed to Islamic and Arab countries to extend assistance to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority so that they may shoulder the new burdens and proceed with the peace process. The Conference praised the efforts being made to achieve a comprehensive and just peace and to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. It called on the Islamic and Arab countries to do all they can to establish a fair peace and safeguard the identity of the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to help them in all fields. It appealed to the international community to rescind the decision banning arms shipments to the Bosnian people in order to enable them to exercise their legitimate right to self-defense and to bring war criminals before an international court. [passage omitted]

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 16 Aug 94

NC1908114894

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 16 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Officials, Writers Comment on ICPD
2. West Defends Anti-Islam Writers
3. Ulema To Discuss Islamic Issues
4. 'AQIDATI Convoy Continues Visits
5. Scholar Defines Muslims' Duties
6. Writer Views Crisis of Islamic Mind
7. Book Authority Publications Criticized
8. TV, Censorship Board Criticized

OFFICIALS, WRITERS COMMENT ON ICPD

The International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, continues to generate broad interest among and comment by government officials and the media. Minister of Population Affairs Dr. Mahir Mahran, in an approximately 120-word statement to 'AQIDATI on page 1, notes that Egypt will continue to support Islamic action and uphold the causes of Muslims worldwide. Commenting on ICPD, Dr. Mahran describes it as a "scientific conference," adding that while "we must not impose our views and policies on every country, it is our duty to reject any recommendation that is not in line with the teachings of our religion or our Islamic traditions and customs." Mahran adds that the ICPD's recommendations are not binding for Muslims, since each country may express reservations about the conference recommendations that it deems unsuitable for its creed or traditions.

In an approximately 600-word report on a meeting between Dr. Mahran and other doctors on page 16, Dr. Mahran notes that the Egyptian Government and people follow a "firm" Islamic line that prohibits abortion, except in cases where the mother's life is endangered. He notes that in Egypt's case, "sexual culture for teenagers" means remedying the health problems facing legally married teenagers as a result of pregnancies at an early age. In the West, teenage pregnancy outside marriage amounts to half a million cases annually. Dr. Mahran adds that Egypt will present the al-Azhar view at the conference, noting that criticism by the pope from the Vatican of some aspects relating to the conference concerns the Church's own view, which does not bind us. Dr. Salim Najm, head of the Islamic Relief Committee, argues that the recommendations issued by the nongovernment associations' conference, which are included in a document that will represent Egypt at the conference, contain linguistic mistakes and terms that have a double meaning. The document, for instance, states that it "does not encourage or support" abortion, which could imply that abortion is permissible. The document includes six recommendations on AIDS, as if it were widespread in Egypt, Dr. Najm adds. Responding to this and other critics, Dr. Mahran says that any mistakes in the document will be amended.

Writing on the same topic, columnist Basyuni al-Halawani, in an approximately 700-word column on page 6, suggests that the ongoing "verbal duel" over the ICPD is uncalled for and is fed by external states that want to tarnish Egypt's reputation as an Islamic state. He states: "What we have here is an international conference that will discuss the world's population problem and in which countries of various beliefs will take part.

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We must not impose our views or policies on everybody. And we need not follow that which is in conflict with our religion and values." He claims that the words "condemnation" and "denunciation" adopted by Islamic individuals, organizations, and governments lead Muslims to lose their battle of cultural dialogue with the West. Likewise, he says, calls for boycotting the conference will embarrass the Muslims and show them to be cowardly and incapable of participating in a dialogue. He notes that reservations expressed by the al-Azhar Center on the ICPD's plan of action show that Egypt is living in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy, unlike many contemporary Islamic communities.

Columnist 'Ali Faruq, in an approximately 500-word column on page 19 entitled "A New Lesson From Al-Azhar Imam," says he believes al-Azhar will remain the "impregnable bastion of Islam" and the "enlightened voice of reason representing the Muslims." He refers to what he calls the al-Azhar imam's calm and sober statement outlining Islam's views on the subjects to be debated at the ICPD and compares his position with that of other people, whose reaction, he says, was highly emotional to the point of calling for preventing the conference from being held in Egypt. Claiming that the ICPD's recommendations will be binding, the author elaborates by citing the conference's opponents suggesting that if the conference decides to permit homosexuality, for instance, Muslims would have to practice it or else they would be subjected to "air strikes by Clinton and his allies!" Concluding, Faruq says that al-Azhar and its scholars have always demonstrated that they can answer any ideas or proposals that are in conflict with our Islamic shari'ah.

WEST DEFENDS ANTI-ISLAM WRITERS

Muhammad Muhammadayn expresses surprise at Western governments' stances against Islam and the Muslims. In an approximately 400-word article on page 20 entitled "Attackers of Islam—A Western Creation," he criticizes the West for supporting Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasrin as a "victim of persecution." He says that after the Swedish Foreign Ministry announced her arrival in Stockholm, where she will live in a secret and secure house, the European Community agreed to give her political asylum and the Norwegian Writers Association invited her to attend a conference in September on freedom of expression.

ULEMA TO DISCUSS ISLAMIC ISSUES

The 6th Conference of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs will open in Alexandria on 16 August. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi will read President Mubarak's message to the conferees. An approximately 500-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 2 notes that the three-day conference will be attended by scholars from one hundred Islamic states; some French orientalists; and delegations from China, Japan, South Korea, and the Vatican. He notes that 16 research projects will be discussed at the conference dealing with economic, cultural, and social Islamic issues.

'AQIDATI CONVOY CONTINUES VISITS

The visit by the 'AQIDATI convoy of Islamic scholars and writers to the Cairo-based Young Men's Islamic Association, the Islamic equivalent of the YMCA, to attend a symposium on "Social Solidarity in Islam," is described by Mamduh al-'Ashri in an approximately 3,000-word report on pages 4 and 5. The symposium is being sponsored by the 'AQIDATI convoy in conjunction with the Regional Union of Societies in Cairo. Members of the convoy and 'AQIDATI Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf speak at the symposium on the concept of solidarity in Islam and the role of charity organizations and associations in this matter. The speakers emphasize the importance of social solidarity as an Islamic tenet leading to equality.

SCHOLAR DEFINES MUSLIMS' DUTIES

In an approximately 400-word article on page 6 entitled "The Muslims Are Prey to Cultural Colonialism," prominent scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali examines the duties of Muslims in this age of "stormy weather" in which their enemies declare their real intentions toward Islam at times and hide them at other times. Noting that their intentions are known anyway, he points out that the enemies want to "finish it off" and have made plans toward that end and have started implementing them. Faced with this, al-Ghazali says that the Muslims should consolidate their ties to God and collaborate with their "brothers-in-creed" to establish a society that honors the holding of prayers; the payment of Zakah, or alms; and the promotion of virtue and suppression of vice. With their brothers, they should bring about a government that can protect this society and adapt all aspects of life to uphold it. He adds: "Adapting life to serve religion is both a popular and government action. It requires that individual and collective activity be steered to serve the general message and to achieve its goals." He concludes: "Thus, any conduct that makes Islamic society weaker than its Jewish or Christian counterparts would be an act of treason or apostasy. Islam is a message that dictates that its believers should make their society more successful. Whatever may help attain that end is a religion."

WRITER VIEWS CRISIS OF ISLAMIC MIND

Professor Dr. Muhammad 'Imarah views the crisis facing the Arab and Islamic mind in his approximately 800-word article on page 7. He attributes the current crisis to two main reasons: The backwardness inherited from the ages of cultural decline and Westernization. The first led to the emergence of a culture of stagnation and imitation unable to present an Islamic version that could compete with the Western equivalent. As for Westernization, it began when a comparison was made between the Western model and our "inherited backwardness," which gave rise to groups highly impressed by the Western model in which they sought refuge and

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answers to the nation's problems. The sheer imitation of both models, the backward and Western models, has resulted in extreme "poverty" in creativity, innovation, and renewal, he adds. He notes that advocates of Westernization are now particularly angered that an "Islamic cultural alternative" capable of competing and uprooting Westernization is being offered.

BOOK AUTHORITY PUBLICATIONS CRITICIZED

On page 10 'AQIDATI's reporter Jamal Salim writes the second in a series of reports on the publishing crisis. In an approximately 1,500-word report, he examines accusations leveled against the government-owned General Book Authority that it defies public opinion in Egypt and the Islamic world by publishing inexpensive books challenging religion and ridiculing the teachings of Islam. He notes that the authority's publications and books concentrate more on history, literature, and geography than on religion and languages. The authority's books, according to Poet Ahmad Suwaylam, find buyers in the market because they are inexpensive and they pander to the readers' "senses." Another critic, Dr. Sa'd Zalam, a member of the Writers' Association Board of Directors, criticizes the "enlightenment" series published by the authority for adopting an anti-Islamic stance. The books, he claims, promote "outdated" ideas that do not conform with the Egyptian public opinion trends. The writer Faruq Fahmi, from the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, accuses the authority of displaying "sexual" and anti-Islamic books in its pavilion at the recent Cairo Book Fair.

TV, CENSORSHIP BOARD CRITICIZED

Mamduh al-'Ashri, in an approximately 100-word column on page 10, calls on the information minister to fulfill his promise made during his meeting with preachers and ulema to increase religious programs on television, now that the television transmission time has been extended to the early morning hours. He criticizes a program featuring an "almost naked girl" who sang on TV Channel 2 on 10 August.

For his part, 'Adil al-Halafawi writes in an approximately 300- word article on the same page that the attacks against the censorship board on artistic material have paid off. He regrets that recent remarks by the newly appointed head of the board suggest that the board will soften the rules protecting values and morality. He notes that the current circumstances require "effective censorship" that is more prohibitive than permissive because the bad outweighs the good in artistic works.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 16 Aug

NC2008154594

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 16 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Campaign Against Population Conference Continues
2. Brotherhood Leader Urges Compliance With Shari'ah
3. Clash With Police Over Decision To Demolish Mosque Stairs
4. Defense Demands Release of Islamist Lawyer al-Zayyat
5. Editor Urges Wider Coptic Participation in Political Life
6. Struggle Urged To Preserve Arab Identity of Jerusalem

CAMPAIGN AGAINST POPULATION CONFERENCE CONTINUES

AL-SHA'B contains several reports and comments sharply critical of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], scheduled to open in Cairo in September. In his 400-word "This Is Our Religion" column on page 12, Muslim scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali quotes several passages and phrases from the conference' plan of action before concluding: "I fear this secular conference will be like an earthquake that will demolish what is left of our homes and ethics." The quotes chosen by al-Ghazali call for better sexual contacts between men and women, equality between boys and girls in inheritance rights, health care programs for adolescent girls, and services for sexually active girls. "It appears," Al-Ghazali writes, "that one of the most important aims of the conference is to facilitate fornication and attenuate its consequences." He notes that the plan of action ignores divine guidance, and he laments the fact that "instead of teaching religion, decency, and prayers, conferences are held to discuss this whoredom."

—In an approximately 3,000-word article entitled "Shall We Abandon Our Religion and Corrupt Our Society for a Handful of Dollars?" on page 5, Labor Party Deputy leader Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad takes the government to task for not getting al-Azhar's opinion before deciding to host the ICPD in Egypt. He asks the government to take a position now that al-Azhar has given its opinion and demanded that the conference plan be revised. He also criticizes the government for issuing visas to members of homosexual groups to attend the conference, wondering whether the aim is to promote the ideas of those groups. He expresses the opinion that the Americans wanted those groups to be represented in the conference to show the Clinton administration's sympathy toward them and their demands. Rehashing al-Azhar's views that the conference's plan undermines religious values and disseminates indecency and free sexual contacts, Murad says Egypt should have avoided this embarrassment from the beginning and stopped itself from being driven behind those who demand that ethical and social values be abandoned.

—In an approximately 2,000-word related article entitled "Stone This Conference" on page 2, Dr. Zaynab

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'Abd-al-'Aziz says what is more serious than the call for sexual freedoms and legalization of abortion in the ICPD's action plan is the call on governments, in all their legislative and religious institutions, to change their laws and use all mass media to mobilize the public in favor of the proposed recommendations. "The anarchy of sexual freedom," the writer contends, is a third kind of colonialism after the political and economic ones. The writer quotes passages from the conference plan she construes as encouragement of adultery and official prostitution. "Thus, we realize how sex will be used as a destructive method to lead the society, in all its age groups, into a loss similar to the opium war, which colonialism waged against China in the last century."

—A 100-word unattributed report on page 1 says the lawyer Mahmud Riyad has filed a lawsuit demanding that the ICPD conference not be held in Cairo, and that the president of the Republic and the minister of population respond to the al-Azhar statement on the conference. The lawsuit reportedly stresses that the conference objectives violate the Islamic shari'ah.

—A related 300-word front-page dispatch by Ayman 'Ali in London reports that "mammoth demonstrations" were staged in the Philippines capital against the ICPD. The report says the demonstration was led by the Catholic Church, which opposes birth-control policy and the legalization of abortion.

BROTHERHOOD LEADER URGES COMPLIANCE WITH SHARI'AH

In his regular column on page 5, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur urges writers, preachers, analysts, historians, script writers, lawmakers, and security men and officials to be honest, tell the truth, and comply with the Islamic shari'ah in their writings and actions. Addressing writers and preachers, Mashhur says: "These days, the Islamic world is being subjected to massive conspiracies dictating that we speak with one voice, return to God, and seek His help and support. Writers and preachers must respond to the skepticism and doubts raised by the enemies of Islam." He adds: "To the writers and preachers who try to harm Islam and level false accusations against it, such as terrorism and violence; to those who attack women's rights in Islam and reject the veil, claiming it is a matter of personal freedom; and to those who call for mixing the sexes, for sexual freedom, and for legalization of abortion or other forms of corruption, we say: Respect peoples' minds and spare yourselves the effort." Mashhur urges writers of television dramas and serials to avoid any instigation for deviation or corruption. He says: "Novels and dramas urging virtue, gallantry, courage, and Islam may be written." He advises authors of what he conceives as corrupt television scripts "to repent before they die, as some female artists have done, so that their sins will be dropped." Mashhur urges lawmakers and officials not to pass "infamous" laws and decisions "such as the emergency law, the parties law, the press law, the terrorism law, and other laws meant to tighten the government's grip on power." He gives the decision to prevent school girls from wearing veils without the approval of their parents, and the decision to host the population conference in Egypt, as other examples of bad decisions. He says the ICPD is being hosted in Egypt "despite the fact that it involves anti-shari'ah issues and that some sexually perverted people will attend it to defend their rights, and will be hosted in our hotels." Finally, Mashhur urges security forces not to turn into tools for torture, intimidation, and murder. Concluding, the Muslim Brotherhood official says: "Let all those who try to harm the Islamic faith know that the religious people of Egypt will continue to be the hard rock on which all attempts at demolition will be broken and will reject everything that violates their creed."

CLASH WITH POLICE OVER DECISION TO DEMOLISH MOSQUE STAIRS

An approximately 1000-word report by 'Adil al-Bahnasawi and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on page 3 talks about "hours of horror and fierce battles between Central Security troops and tens of thousands of residents in Manshiyat al-Hurriyah." The crowd was protesting the governor's decision to demolish the staircase of a mosque in the town "allegedly" because it extends into an area belonging to the main road. The report says the security forces used bullets and tear gas against the demonstrators who gathered around the mosque to protect it. The report says some 150 people were hurt in the confrontation, and that the residents prevented the security forces from implementing the demolition decision. The report is accompanied by two pictures of the crowds around the mosque.

DEFENSE DEMANDS RELEASE OF ISLAMIST LAWYER AL-ZAYYAT

A 250-word report by Subhi Buhayri on page 7 cites a memorandum presented by the defense for Islamist lawyer Muntasir al-Zayyat, who has been in detention for several months. The memorandum casts doubts on the charges brought against al-Zayyat and says the cassettes on which the charges are based contain merely journalistic dialogues and telephone conversations that include no incriminating evidence. The memorandum demands the speedy release of al-Zayyat because there is no proof he is involved in violence. It says the aim behind the case is to slander al-Zayyat because he defends detainees.

EDITOR URGES WIDER COPTIC PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE

In an approximately 3,000-word article on pages 1 and 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn urges the Copts to play a more active role in public life by joining the various political parties. "This is essential for the safety and health of the homeland," he says. Husayn notes that the political participation of the Copts in Egypt's political life has diminished over the years for several reasons, one of which, he says, was "the unwise government

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and official media position, which deepened the fears of Copts of the phenomenon of Islamic awakening and portrayed it as threatening to their existence. Some reckless practices of some groups entrenched these fears while the official media hid the genuine face of the Islamic movement." Husayn notes that the political activity of the Copts is now being practiced inside the church. Such activity, Husayn argues, further isolates the Copts and creates a barrier between them and their Muslim brothers. Turning the church into something like a political party for the Copts, Husayn says, was harmful to the Copts: "The Copts have lost, their role in public life has declined to only symbolic appointments to the People's Assembly. This leads to further isolation and threatens to turn the Copts into merely a pressure group with some sectarian demands, when, in the past, they were mainly characterized by adoption of national stands."

STRUGGLE URGED TO PRESERVE ARAB IDENTITY OF JERUSALEM

An approximately 2,500-word back-page article by Dr. Mahjub 'Umar discusses Jerusalem, calling on the Palestinians and Arabs to use all forms of struggle to maintain the Arab identity of the city against Israel's attempts to Judaize it. He notes that the paragraph in the Washington Declaration that recognizes Jordan's religious role in Jerusalem is in Israel's favor because it means an official Jordanian acknowledgement that Israel has rights in the holy city and in deciding its future. The paragraph also causes problems between Jordan and the PLO, and casts doubts on the latter's right to decide the future of Jerusalem in the upcoming negotiations.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh Says 'Arafat To Visit Jordan Soon

JN2308100394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of information and culture in the National Authority, has said that His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat will soon visit Jordan to meet with his brother King Husayn to discuss ties between the two countries.

'Abd-Rabbuh earlier headed the Palestinian delegation to talks held with the Jordanians, chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. These talks were concluded in the Jordanian capital yesterday. The two sides agreed to hold another meeting next month to discuss the issue of the displaced and to agree on the formation of a joint committee that will meet monthly to discuss issues of mutual interest. The two sides also considered issues related to Palestinian-Jordanian trade and the economic agreement between Israel and Jordan, especially the export of Jordanian commodities worth $30 million to the West Bank this year. The two sides also examined banking and monetary relations and the Palestinian plans to issue a special currency unit. They agreed that the Jordanian dinar will be the main unit of circulation in the National Authority areas for a temporary period of three years. The Jordanian side approved the National Authority's plans to issue passports for its citizens in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that Jerusalem and ending its occupation is a joint issue and that it is a common Jordanian and Palestinian goal as well as an Arab and Islamic cause.

'Arafat Said Pushing 'Very Hard' for Elections

TA2308060594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Palestinians are continuing plans to hold general elections in the territories by December 15. The PLO presented proposals to Israeli negotiators on the subject last week, and are still awaiting a reply.

Reporter Mark Weiss spoke with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who drafted the Palestinian proposals, and asked him if the Palestinian side would be able to meet the December deadline.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Weiss] So, from the Palestinian point of view, you are all ready, and you are waiting for the Israeli go-ahead?

['Urayqat] I think the ball is now in the Israeli court, and we urge the Israeli Government to seek the approach of negotiating in parallel terms the issue of redeployment, and [word indistinct] clause, and the election modalities. If they do that, we can meet the deadline. If they insist on doing it in a sequential manner—meaning the election, and then, in three months, the redeployment, and so on—I think this will delay the process. And, we hope that the Israeli Government would respond positively, so we can hold the elections on 15 December.

[Weiss] Finally, Yasir 'Arafat has said publicly on more than one occasion that he needs the elections to get a [word indistinct] mandate from the people. What happens if the elections take place, and he fails to get this large mandate? Do you expect he will respect the results?

['Urayqat] Well, I think election and democracy are to the people to decide, and I am sure all of us would have to respect the results of the elections. And, I think, one of the persons who is really pushing very, very hard to have the elections is President 'Arafat, and this is why I was appointed to have head the election commission as back as 20 November. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Fatah Links Charter Revision, Statehood Recognition

JN2208110794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] In a meeting held in Tunis yesterday under His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and in the presence of several Fatah members, the Fatah Movement decided not to convene the Palestine National Council [PNC], in

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order to cancel the articles pertaining to Israel, until Israel withdraws from all occupied Palestinian territories and recognizes a Palestinian state.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has said that amending the Palestinian national charter is closely linked to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. Qaddumi added that he supports peace, and that the PNC agreed to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict based on establishing two states for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

New Fatah Group Reportedly Formed in Territories

JN2208110994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Aug 94 p 24

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem, QUDS PRESS—A new Palestinian group, which seems to be a Fatah splinter group, said it will start its activity in the occupied territories within a few weeks. The group, calling itself the Palestinian National Liberation Movement-Fatah-Soldiers of Right [jund al-haqq], said in a statement labeled Number 1 and distributed in the occupied territories, that it "does not receive orders from anyone because it is self-financed and independent in its decision." It added that its aim is "to remove injustice, fight corruption, and restore Fatah's past status."

The statement did not mention the names of the group's leaders, but said: "We call on all to immediately stay away from any issue approached or adopted by the "Soldiers of Right" because we will mete out the severest punishment to those who poke their nose into others' affairs." It called on Palestinians to facilitate the movement of the group's members and "stay away from the scene of their operations".

DFLP Rejects Israeli Invitation to PNC Members

TA2308062694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] has reacted scornfully to Israeli invitations to attend the meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. Both Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres have said in recent weeks that the council can convene in Gaza with all its members, including those Israel has banned as terrorists. A statement from the DFLP-General Command in Damascus called the invitation suspicious and said its only objective was to breach the PLO Charter. It called Yasir 'Arafat a surrenderist for, as it said, agreeing to enter Gaza and Jericho under the spearhead of the Zionist enemy. The statement went on to call for an escalation of armed struggle against Israel.

PNC Secretary Interviewed on Convention

TA2108134894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Aug 94 p A2

[Interview with PNC Secretary General Muhammad Subayh by Gay Bekhor; place and date not given]

[Text] [Bekhor] Has a date for the next Palestine National Council [PNC] session been set, following the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres in Gaza last weekend?

[Subayh] There is no date yet. It will be set when conditions are right—namely, when the PNC's activity is facilitated, its freedom of action guaranteed, all its members granted independent access (to the territory), and of course, when administrative matters, such as transportation, lodging, and permits for the hundreds of delegates, conference halls, and so forth, are all arranged. Yet above all, there is the matter of our safety, of our freedom of action, freedom of speech, and full protection for all. We operate democratically, and as you know, our debates are open. This matter has not been guaranteed as yet.

[Bekhor] What does your position as PNC secretary general entail?

[Subayh] I have been tasked with presidential duties—legal preparations for conventions, dispatching invitations according to the name slates, preparing timetables and agreed agendas—in accordance with the PNC regulations. As I said, certain conditions have to be met for the PNC to convene. Have these conditions been met yet? No. The (Palestinian) National Authority is not ready for a PNC conference at this date. In my opinion and in the opinion of many of my colleagues, the time is not yet ripe. People are still occasionally turned back at the Rafah crossing, and here is one example: I myself, secretary general of the PNC and of the PLO Central Council, have been barred (by the Israeli authorities) from entering the Strip. Jamil al-Tarifi informed me only two days ago that the Israeli authorities would not grant me an entry permit or give me an entry number. Under these circumstances, with this absence of full freedom for the Palestinians, any talk of a PNC convention is premature.

[Bekhor] Why have you been banned from the Gaza Strip?

[Subayh] I really do not know. I was among the first to discuss the concept of peace at a meeting with some Israelis in 1973 in Rome, and I have supported the peace process all along. Israel's reasons are of no interest to me, and if it continues like this, the peace supporters on our side will change their minds. Therefore, I warn against rushing to convene the PNC before the Palestinian self-rule completes its deployment in the remaining West Bank cities, at which time the peace process will have scored some achievements.

[Bekhor] Are you saying that the PNC will not convene before the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal and the autonomy deployment is completed in all the West Bank cities?

[Subayh] That is right. Do you imagine, does anyone in Israel think that the PNC will convene under the protection of the Israel Police or the Shin Bet? That is unthinkable. In the past, we refused to allow the security

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personnel of the Arab state that hosted us and paid the convention expenses to remain in the conference hall. So are we going to let Israel? We still live in the age of occupation. I say yes to the convention, yes to doing it quickly, but first Israel must withdraw from the rest of the West Bank cities and the Palestinian police must deploy there and protect the delegates (PNC members).

[Bekhor] But the convention is supposed to be held in Gaza, not the West Bank, and as Gaza is now controlled by the Palestinian police, there would seem to be no problem.

[Subayh] Sir, the Rafah crossing point is still in the hands of the Shin Bet, the Israel Police, and the Israeli Army. I have told you that I myself was refused entry; how will the others enter? For your information, more than 35 people, including Taysir Qub'ah, deputy speaker of the PNC, for instance, have been refused entry permits to Gaza in the past three months. Gaza, not Haifa....

The PNC delegates in the Arab countries heard of this and are saying in advance: I am not coming.

[Bekhor] Do you believe members of the Popular and the Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, for instance, who are sharply opposed to the Oslo process, may enter the territory to attend the PNC discussions?

[Subayh] I see no reason why they should not enter their own country—of course, if the Israeli Army is out of there and security is in the hands of the Palestinians.

[Bekhor] Let us move on to the amendment of the Palestinian National Covenant. You are very familiar with the Palestinian power cadres. Do you believe such an amendment is at all feasible?

[Subayh] As you know, our covenant has been protected by the proviso that a majority of at least two-thirds is necessary to amend it. We insist on that safeguard, because it gives the covenant legitimacy, and we are not going to defy it. Any future amendment depends on the majority attending the session. The PNC is independent and sovereign, and its members cannot be coerced into endorsing any stand, just as no one can force a stand on Knesset members.

[Bekhor] Still, what do you think would be the outcome of such a vote? It is no secret that there are two views in the Palestinian camp: one supporting the peace process and another rejecting the current plan.

[Subayh] There is a power struggle between the proponents of these two views, and I think we cannot speak of either of the two triumphing right now, because the situation is very fluid. If, during the conference, the prevailing conditions prove that real peace is possible, the vote will reflect the situation. But if the delegates become convinced that the current peace process is incompatible with the Palestinian people's interests, they will vote against amending the covenant.

Therefore, it greatly depends on Israel's actions. For instance, the opponents are saying that right now, the situation (in Gaza) is even harder than during the occupation, and they mean the crossing points, the unresolved issue of a policeman on the bridge, the size of Jericho, the detentions, and the dire economic situation. As for the issue itself, everything is negotiable, provided the external terms I mentioned are met. The Palestinian Covenant amendment is negotiable. I believe that eventually there will be a political compromise on this matter.

[Bekhor] What kind of relations do you have with Shaykh 'Abd- al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the PNC speaker?

[Subayh] Very good relations.

[Bekhor] Yet speaking from Jordan, where he lives, he has voiced absolute opposition to the Oslo process.

[Subayh] That is his prerogative. Binyamin Netanyahu is also opposed to it. So what?

[Bekhor] Will al-Sa'ih, for instance, come to the PNC convention in Gaza?

[Subayh] My information indicates that he will, if his health permits it, may God grant him long life. In any event, he has delegated his powers (in the PNC) to his first deputy, Brother Abu-al-Adib (Salim al-Za'nun).

[Bekhor] You have been participating in the Palestinian debate from a certain distance. Do you think the PLO and its institutions still serve a purpose after the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]?

[Subayh] Certainly. The PNA is a component of the PLO, and the PLO is its source of authority. The negotiations on the permanent stage are approaching, and the PNA does not represent all parts of the Palestinian people; only the PLO does. With the advent of the permanent stage, on the threshold of a Palestinian state, a referendum will be held, and then, I presume, the PLO will become a political party and its composition will change, as has happened to all national liberation movements. Until then, the PLO is the one that calls the shots.

Hamas Denounces Killing of Youth, Security Services

TA2308074794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has issued a manifesto strongly denouncing the killing of a 15-year-old youth in Rafah who was shot by a member of the Palestinian security services. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Hamas demands that the Palestinian Authority conduct a serious investigation into the matter and put the person responsible on trial.

Police Commander Waiting for Orders To Stop Hamas

TA2308061594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] General Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the autonomy police in Gaza and Jericho, says that the

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Palestinian police can stop the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists, but the PLO's political leadership has not given instruction to do so. Gen. Yusuf spoke with our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem who filed the following report:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] Gen. Nasr Yusuf, a member of the Fatah Central Committee and the commander of the autonomy police in Gaza and Jericho, is considered the strong man in the Strip. It is said in Gaza that he is the only person who can subdue the Hamas and stop the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam activists who perpetrate terrorist acts. Gen. Nasr Yusuf is not overly excited by the 'Izz- al-Din al-Qassam activists. He was the first to call them to order upon arriving in the Strip. He made them stop the murder of suspected collaborators with Israel, the writing of slogans on walls, and instigation in the mosques.

What about the capture of the perpetrators of terrorist actions? When we receive instructions, we will stop them, he said.

Why have instructions not be given so far? His answer: Because of certain conditions to which the political leadership is subject. This leadership has its wide-ranging outlook; it is subject to certain circumstances, and it is the one which assesses the situation, Yusuf said.

At the same time, Gen. Yusuf was prepared to disclose that the Palestinian police currently hold in custody four Hamas activists who were apparently involved in terrorist acts in the Strip.

Yusuf said: The investigation is currently focused on certain terrorist acts, and we cannot talk about them before the investigation is over.

Gen. Yusuf is not afraid to express his strong support for the Israel-PLO accord. We will stop anybody who violates the accord, he said, emphasizing there is no danger that the detention of the activists of Hamas' military arm will bring about a brothers' war in the Strip.

The Palestinian police's image in the Israeli public is important to Nasr Yusuf. You should understand, he said, that we are the security forces of the Palestinian people, but as soldiers, we cannot act without the instruction of the political echelon. When we act, there will be rapid and good results, and the Hamas terrorists will be picked up. At the same time, Gen. Yusuf is afraid to say what circumstances restrict Yasir 'Arafat and prevent him from instructing the detention of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam activists. [end recording]

Released Prisoners Protest Restriction to Jericho

TA2208183794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Video report by Yoram Binur]

[Excerpts] The released Palestinian prisoners are revolting against Israel's demand that they remain only in Gaza and Jericho. At a news conference they held in Gaza today, they also leveled criticism at the PLO leadership which, in their opinion, is neglecting them. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Binur reports:

[Begin Binur recording] [passage omitted] The released prisoners say their restriction to Jericho stems from political reasons. According to them, there is heavy Israeli traffic at a distance of about 100 meters from their living quarters and had they wanted to, they could have carried out terrorist acts in Jericho as well. [passage omitted]

Today's news conference was initiated by 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddura, the leader of the Fatah prisoners, who was released from jail last Friday. Featured in his remarks was a protest against Israel but also sharp criticism of the PLO leadership which, he claims, is neglecting the prisoners. [passage omitted]

The prisoners—both those who have been released and those still in jail—are considered a militant and very influential power in the territories. They have their own movement, known as al-Harakat al-Asra [The Prisoners Movement], and their own leadership and control mechanisms. The prisoners may become a force of opposition to 'Arafat's rule, and according to them, both the Israeli authorities and the PLO leadership want to wipe out their political power. [end recording]

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Algeria

EU, France, Italy Give Aid to Earthquake Victims

LD1908123894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] The European Union [EU] has decided to give $488,000 to the victims of the earthquake that struck Mascara Province.

Italy today announced that it will give the victims $375,000 as urgent humanitarian aid. France, on its part, has announced that it will give aid to the victims.

Moreover, the Italian organization Caritas has decided to give 50 million Italian lira as humanitarian aid to the victims of the Mascara earthquake.

Sifi Meets With Economic, Social Council Members

LD2108202794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi met with the members of the National Economic and Social Council this morning.

On the government side the meeting was attended by the ministers of the interior, industrial restructuring and partnership, labor and social protection, the minister delegate to the treasury, the minister delegate for the budget, and the government secretary general. For the National Economic and Social Council, members of the council's bureau were present.

The aim of the meeting was to prepare for the council's forthcoming session next September. The agenda for the forthcoming session was studied and the organization of the council's work was discussed. Agreement was reached on a principle according to which the government is to inform the council of the standby arrangement that was signed with the IMF. With the aim of finalizing the 1995 financial bill, the National Economic and Social Council is required to provide views derived from economic, administrative, financial, social, and cultural reality.

The government also reached agreement with the National Economic and Social Council on giving priority to some urgent topics that were included in the program of the transitional period. It was agreed that in light of aspects of the agreement between the government and the council, members of the government are to provide contributions in the forthcoming meeting of the council.

After recalling the efforts to get the country out of the crisis, the prime minister pointed out that the program of the transitional period aims at bringing about the necessary transformations to find the way out. In this connection, he stressed the importance of the council, which is contributing toward the prospects of economic development.

Report on National Dialogue Meeting

LD2308093294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Following the meeting that brought together the head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, and the leaders of five political parties—the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA], HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement], Ennahda, and the Party for Algerian Renewal [PRA]—and in the framework of the second round of national dialogue, the Presidency of the state issued a statement today. [passage omitted]

The session held yesterday enabled each side to present its view on the way to solve the current crisis facing the country. It also enabled them to open a deep debate on the main facts of this crisis and the means and ways to solve it. [passage omitted]

With regard to the state's commitments, which must remain outside the framework of the dialogue, they concern economic reforms and thus the economic agreements signed with our international partners.

It is worth mentioning that all the parties present announced their approval of these constant principles and agreed that they cannot be violated.

The head of state committed himself personally to respect the framework of this dialogue, the constant principles which must be safeguarded, and the commitments that will emanate from the dialogue.

He also stressed the commitment of the National People's Army to respect this framework and its constants, as well as the results reached.

During these talks, the head of state answered clearly all the questions and views put forward by the participants. He clarified the stance of the state toward all the facts concerning the dialogue and its aims, as well as the conditions of the transitional period's process.

First: The process of dialogue. How will this dialogue be?

The head of state pointed out that dialogue must be continuous and transparent and that divergence in views should not lead to an interruption of a dialogue that shall continue for the necessary time until agreement is reached on all points. The parties absent in the dialogue remain concerned and their participation is awaited. Contact will be maintained with them.

The head of state stressed that Islam was the religion of the state and recalled that parties with an Islamic tendency are present in the Transitional National Council and are now present around the dialogue table.

As a reminder of what he said to parties last March, President Zeroual pointed out that he had met the leaders of the dissolved party in the military prison of Blida before the national conference, in his capacity as minister of national defense, out of a wish to avoid

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wasting any opportunity for serving the national interest and in order to put an end to the bloodshed. This meeting was not announced immediately in order to facilitate the task of Mr. Djeddi and Mr. Boukhamkham who are in charge of working towards putting an end to the violence. During this meeting, the two imprisoned officials expressed their rejection of violence, which destroys the country, and their will to work for putting an end to it. In this context, Djeddi and Boukhamkham were released with the approval of their colleagues who mandated them to work for putting an end to violence.

There are documents that confirm this. However, no result emerged after six months, and the head of state said that he encouraged them to meet the leaders of the dissolved political party in prison, and that he encouraged the national personalities who suggested that to meet them.

The president of the republic confirmed during yesterday's meeting that the story about Ali Belhadj's letter, which was recently mentioned in the press, was true. He also gave a copy of it to each party. The president of the republic also reiterated his encouragement to the parties that wish to meet the officials of the dissolved political group.

After stressing that dialogue is being held at a national level, the president of the republic said that it was up to the officials of the dissolved political group to openly announce their commitments to the constants announced by the president of the republic including the rejection of violence.

Now, on the issue of violence: The president of the republic indicated that the commitment to hold national dialogue was not an indicator of the weakness of the state. This step shows the concern for the preservation of the Algerian citizens' lives and attempts to convince people that the crisis is basically political. Furthermore, due to the fact that violence and terrorism are aimed at the Algerian people and its gains, it is everybody's duty, and that of the political class in particular, to endeavor to put an end to this phenomenon which could not be given as a justification.

On the issue of excesses: The president of the republic reiterated his firm commitment to the respect of law and human rights. He recalled that he had in the past submitted this stance to the political parties in his capacity as minister of national defense. He also put it in clear terms that any excesses would be punished because it was unacceptable to cause any harm to the Algerian people.

He called upon the Algerian political parties and human rights organizations to report any noticed excesses, and expressed commitment to taking the necessary measures once proof of the accusations is confirmed.

During his meeting with parties, the issues of the freedom of political action and the use of the media came up. Mr. Hassiba reported.

Regarding some political parties' request for the freedom of political action and the possibility of using the media, President Zeroual indicated that he stressed time and again the freedom of political action and the use of the media. He noticed that political marches, meetings, and demonstrations have increased in number throughout the nation. The parties' interventions through the media have become important.

Out of his concern to remove any ambiguity, the president of the republic has called upon political parties that are suffering obstructions during the exercise of their legitimate political actions and their use of the media to inform the authorities so that they can take the necessary measures. He has announced that he will soon publish a presidential directive to stress the freedom of political action and the freedom for the legal parties to use all the media.

Regarding the agenda of the dialogue, the president of the republic emphasized the need to have an agenda for the dialogue, calling upon the parties to submit proposals to this effect and approve them.

Because the parties did not reach an agreement on the agenda, the president of the republic made the following statement, which included proposals:

"From the very start, we have preferred to submit an agenda, in order to stress the respect for the framework and the constants that I have referred to in my introduction and in order to leave dialogue open on problems. In our view, the agenda is considered as a technical, organizational, and practical aspect of our debates, the main subject of which cannot be isolated: establishing civil peace and stability in our country to allow holding elections, and here lies the main problem, which cannot be separated and which is the basis and the aim of the transitional phase.

"If we looked deep into this problem, we would observe the following: Before anything else, Algeria should attain an end to the violence and the terrorism that is threatening it, as this phenomenon is threatening the Algerian people and all its gains, and even democracy. Nothing can be realized as long as violence is destroying our country. After that, we create the necessary conditions for a return to the election, with the participation of all—or the most number possible—in order to speed up the establishment of security and civil peace as well as bolstering the social peace. Finally, the practical measures for the progress of the election should be defined with the approval of all in order to allow every person to prepare for that. These are the three main phases for taking our country out of the crisis. I hope that the dialogue would be organized on these three aspects, since each important point falls within this or that aspect.

"More importantly for all of us is to deepen the discussion, remove the differences, bring the views close together, and then emerge with a practical and beneficial idea."

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Some of the political parties approved the proposal of the agenda in principle, while other parties approved the contents of the agenda. The head of state called on the parties to enrich and complete this proposal on the agenda.

The question of the election and the participation in the management of the transitional stage occupied an important part of yesterday's meeting. The head of state renewed the will of the authority to shorten the transitional stage if the necessary conditions for holding the election were available. He reaffirmed his will to make the parties—including the parties that have not participated in the dialogue and with whom contacts remained—participate in this endeavor. With the aim of settling the problem of the election, President Zeroual proposed to the political parties the following:

A: Actual participation in the transitional institutions. The head of state approved such participation, about which he wants to talk to the parties, including participation in the government.

B: Participation of the parties and the state together in specifying realistically an election timetable that will be honored, circumstances permitting.

The head of state reaffirmed that the parties' approval—which one hopes to see—to participate in the institutions of the transitional stage, to define the election timetable, will allow collective action in order to bring about a speedy realization of these aims.

President Zeroual added that the participation of the parties in the running of the transitional stage does not aim to place the burden of the work of the state on their shoulders, nor does it aim to obtain the parties' support for the authority. In fact this endeavor is derived from the fact that Algeria's serious problems are not the problems of the state or the government alone. This desire to involve the political parties in the running of the transitional stage reflects an eagerness to seek solutions to Algeria's problems about which the parties should assume their historical responsibilities. The head of state also called on the parties to submit their ideas on this matter.

Eighth [as heard]: The question of foreign interference: In reply to the views expressing the feelings of the parties that raised this issue, the head of state recalled his previous statements and again reaffirmed that the Algerian people and authorities will not permit any foreign interference and that the current crisis between the Algerians should be solved in Algeria and by Algerians alone.

The head of state also reaffirmed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued every necessary instruction to our embassies and consulates to ensure the maintenance of the dignity and interests of our community abroad while upholding the laws of the host countries. The head of state and the parties taking part in the dialogue said that they were encouraged, thanks to the spirit and the will which characterized this meeting. They agreed to continue the meeting on Wednesday, 23 August.

That was the statement issued by the head of state's office.

Tizi Ouzou Teacher Killed

LD2308102494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] A security services' statement released today announces that a teacher, Stambouli Rabah, aged 65 years, a university graduate and chairman of the Tizi Ouzou Federation of Students' Parents, was assassinated at 0830 today. He was shot as he was leaving his home in 5 July estate in Tizi Ouzou.

Satellite Transmission of Radio, TV Launched

LD2008143894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Head of government Mokdad Sifi attended the launching of external radio and television transmission via satellite at the headquarters of the National Enterprise for Radio and Television Transmission today. He was accompanied by Minister of Communications Mohamed Benamar Zerhouni, and the directors general of radio, television, and radio and television transmission.

The head of government said the operation was a bridging mechanism that would link Algeria with its sons abroad and enable them to be informed about the reality of living in all the spheres in Algeria. It would also enable foreigners to receive true information. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Daily Views 'Hostile Campaign' by Sudanese Regime

NC2308072094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that 'Umar al-Bashir's regime in Sudan, after being exposed to the world as a regime associated with terrorism, tries to cover itself by escalating its hostile campaign against Egypt. This regime commits childish acts that seek to undermine relations among brothers in Egypt and Sudan, the paper says.

In an editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that these childish attempts are doomed and are condemned by the Egyptian and Sudanese people as well as by people everywhere.

The paper notes that the provocative acts that al-Bashir's regime is conducting against Egyptian property in Sudan have recently escalated. The Sudanese authorities cut water, electricity, and telephone lines to the Egyptian Embassy and Consulate in Khartoum, and al-Bashir's

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men sequestered buildings owned by the Egyptian Irrigation Ministry, the Egyptian School, teachers' homes, and the headquarters of the Egyptian Education Mission in Khartoum, the paper notes.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that despite the provocation and the feverish campaign in the Sudanese media, Egypt insists on exercising restraint to frustrate the attempts of the collapsing al-Bashir regime in Sudan.

The paper refers in this context to President Mubarak's repeated assertions that Egypt will not respond to the Sudanese provocation. It also refers to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's announcement that Egypt is still committed to its position on the fraternal Sudanese people and their issues and that Egypt's relations with the Sudanese people will not be shaken, despite the provocation by which al-Bashir's regime violates every international norm.

Sudanese Embassy in Cairo Protests Treatment

EA2308110094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Sudan's permanent mission to the Arab League in Cairo has lodged a complaint with the league's secretary general against the conduct of the Egyptian authorities toward the mission and the cutting off of electricity from the entire mission since last Thursday [18 August] while other premises in the area were not affected.

The memorandum said that the interruption of services also included the cutting of telephone lines and other communication equipment, thus obstructing the mission's preparations for the 102d session of the Arab League's Council of Foreign Ministers scheduled to be held from 14 to 15 September.

The mission appealed to the general secretariat to intervene with the state hosting the league's headquarters to reconnect the electricity supply and the other communication lines of its offices to enable it to carry out its duties in accordance with the league's charter and regulations.

Reports received from Cairo confirm that the interruption of the electricity supply and communications of the Sudanese Embassy there took place on direct instructions from the head of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, following his public hint at this in a television program, namely, that Egypt could take steps against the Sudanese mission there. Other reports confirm continuing provocations and harassments of Sudanese diplomats.

Rabin, Peres Accused of Procrastination on Golan

NC2308065194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR accuses Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres of procrastination and of using vague remarks when they discuss the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, the core of the conflict between Syria and Israel.

In its editorial today, the paper reviews statements Rabin made at the beginning of the negotiations and during the meetings in Washington between the Arab and Israeli delegations. In these statements, Rabin tried to hint that withdrawal from the Golan Heights was no problem and that he was willing to make the decision on withdrawal once he was reassured that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was prepared to establish normal relations with Israel, the paper says.

AL-AKHBAR adds that President al-Asad has reiterated in all his statements that he supports full peace between the Arabs and Israel. His only condition is to restore the Golan. But Rabin and Peres are procrastinating with the excuse that the issue lies in the hands of the Israeli people, that it needs to be settled, and that Knesset approval is not enough, as Rabin told Norwegian television yesterday.

The paper reiterates that such remarks lack the sincerity and frankness that a responsible government in any state must demonstrate.

Dismantling of Israeli 'Nuclear Arsenal' Urged

NC2308123194 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 20 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "When Will Israel Do It?"]

[Text] In an announcement in Vienna yesterday, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that South Africa has actually destroyed all the nuclear warheads that it had secretly built during the era of its international isolation, which was caused by its racist white minority's monopoly of power.

An IAEA spokesman said that a meticulous inspection by its experts leaves no room for doubt that Pretoria has actually dismantled its nuclear weapons.

It should be recalled that when Frederik de Klerk, former president and South Africa's last white leader before the black majority assumed power, announced last year that his country had dismantled its nuclear weapons, there were some doubts about the truthfulness of that announcement.

Thus, South Africa became the only country in the world to do something like this voluntarily without the pressure of international sanctions.

This precedent brings to our minds its twin country in this sphere. I mean Israel. Israel and racist South Africa faced a form of international ostracism during the past 25 years. South Africa's isolation was the result of its system of racial discrimination. Israel's ostracism was the product of its aggression against its Arab neighbors, its occupation of their territories, and its refusal to acknowledge the existence of a Palestinian people, let

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alone their legal national rights. It was also founded on Zionist ideology, which the world then regarded as racist.

In light of their similar circumstances and the climate of joint isolation, Israel and South Africa forged a close cooperation that included, among other things, nuclear collaboration. During that period Israel and South Africa succeeded in secretly acquiring nuclear arms. Neither country admitted officially or publicly that it possessed this type of weapons. Israel maintained a cloak of secrecy around the affair and to this day continues to deny that it possesses nuclear weapons, despite the strong evidence that its arsenal comprises no fewer than 200 nuclear warheads.

We know that it was not a sudden espousal of virtue that made South Africa's white leaders destroy their nuclear warheads. In fact, the destruction was part of the deal transforming the country's apartheid system into a democracy. It was a long, complicated process that lasted for years and ended in Nelson Mandela's election last April as South Africa's first black African nationalist president.

Cynics say that the United States compelled de Klerk to get rid of his nuclear arms so that they would not fall into the hands of the black majority when it came to power. They say the aim was to deprive Africa of a nuclear capability on the grounds that nuclear power was permissible for whites but a taboo for blacks.

The cynics add that the circumstances surrounding South Africa's democratic transformation were very similar to the circumstances now surrounding the historic reconciliation between the Arabs and Israel, a process that involves the Arab countries' recognition of Israel in return for its evacuation of the Arab territories it occupies and recognition of the Palestinian people's legal national rights. Indeed, this also involves the transformation of Israeli- Arab hostility and confrontation into coexistence and cooperation in various spheres.

Now, if dismantling South Africa's nuclear arsenal was the price of the historic reconciliation there, the same process must be repeated in the case of Israel.

The credibility of the United States, the world's foremost major power and sponsor of the historic South African and Middle Eastern reconciliations, will undoubtedly continue to hinge on its attitude toward Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Like South Africa in the past, Israel is now the only nuclear power in its region and, after the historic reconciliation, its nuclear arsenal must disappear. Justice and the regional balance of power make this necessary. I do not think that the Middle East's regional powers will ever accept anything less. So, when will Israel do it?

Muslim Brotherhood Denounces ICPD in Statement

NC2208161994 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT 22 Aug 94

[By Mae Ghalwash]

[Text] Cairo, Aug 22 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood group on Monday joined forces with Muslim clerics and scholars denouncing the forthcoming world population conference [International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD] as "sacrilegious."

"The Muslim Brotherhood rejects the (conference's) draft resolutions ... [ellipsis as received] because the ideas that they are based on are sacrilegious and reject the principle of faith in God, and the day of Judgment," the group said in a statement faxed to AFP.

The statement condemned the draft resolutions for allegedly condoning "sexual relationships among adolescents, homosexual relationships, abortion as a means of family planning and trying to break up the family as a social nucleus, and providing adolescent girls with family-planning devices."

The Muslim Brotherhood, which is banned but allowed to operate openly, is the latest group to attack the UN conference which has already drawn fire from both moderate and radical Islamic groups and the government.

The Vatican has also condemned passages of the resolution and is to lobby hard against their adoption.

The conference, due to start here on September 5, has sparked a heated debate in Egypt because it touches on issues sensitive to this conservative society.

The draft resolution rules out abortion as a means of family planning, but suggests that information be made available to women and that the operation should be safe.

It also recommends that information on safe sexual relationships be made available to everyone, including adolescents, to curb the spread of sexual diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

The Brotherhood characterized the conference as another means for the West to impose its views on other cultures.

It was wrong to focus on population increase, the statement said, because the Third World's real problems lay in political, economic and social development.

"Population increase would never have represented a threat," in Third World countries, had not development been retarded by "political tyranny, financial corruption, lack of trust between the government and people, and the theft of natural resources under Western military occupation," the statement said.

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The Brotherhood called upon the Egyptian delegation to the conference to abide by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's announcement that Egypt would "not accept any resolution contrary to Islam."

The conference resolutions will not be binding to any country.

Commentary Questions U.S. Motives in ICPD

NC2008072594 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 Aug 94 p 1

[Commentary by Chief Editor Mahmud al-Muraghi: "The World in the American Way: The Population Conference and the Attempt To Rearrange the Cards"]

[Text] The title for this article was: "The Permissible and the Prohibited in the Population Conference." It was an objective title that separated the acceptable from the unacceptable in the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] scheduled to be held in Cairo in September.

But when I came to the end of the article, I found that the concepts of what is permitted and what is prohibited differ from what is commonly thought by the people. I mean that the West, with the United States at its forefront, wants to reshape the world to remake it in the American way.

But let us start from the beginning, from the need to rearrange the cards, the confusion over this conference, and the opposition it is facing from religious leaders and politicians and from al-Azhar and the Vatican.

If we rearrange the cards we will find the following:

1. We are dealing with a very serious problem, namely that of population. Egypt's population is expected to rise soon above the 100 million figure and our country will be among the most populated (18) countries by the year (2025).

The issue is not one of abundance or scarcity but of the balance between population and resources. Some are saying: "Let us limit the population numbers." Other are saying: "Let us increase the resources. Numbers mean glory and Islam says 'multiply and procreate.'" The fact is that both sides of the formula have to be dealt with if we want to be logical. It is no disgrace to say that the small family in the developing countries has a better chance than the larger one. But it is a disgrace to speak about controlling the population without exerting enough efforts on development. I mean that the population number is not in itself good or bad. The issue is how to manage this equation and turn the population into wealth instead of turning it into a heavy burden.

2. We are dealing with an international and not an Egyptian conference. We will take part in it but will not control it. We will accept its resolutions that suit our religion and needs but reject what does not suit us. But, in all cases, this is a great opportunity from which Egypt could benefit. The conference guests: (118) countries and around 20,000 participants. I listened to Tourism Minister Dr. Mamduh al-Biltaji speaking eagerly about expectations that accompany the safe convocation of this conference in Cairo and how this could remove much of the consequences left by terrorism. I think the minister is right and no sane person can wish anything other than having a new image of Egypt that will restore its tourism position and achieve more stability.

Objectivity and a balanced dialogue about the ICPD issues will help prepare the necessary atmosphere for its convocation, regardless of our reservations over some issues.

3. Any agreement or difference over the ICPD should not ignore the basic issue, namely that there is an international trend toward achieving a population stability in the world and controlling the population number. The ICPD has been preceded over many years by the efforts of specialized agencies that expect the world to reach what is called "a state of stabilization" during the first half of the next century. It is the state where the number of newborns equals that of deaths; that is women will give birth to children but the world population will not increase.

This notion needs to be studied. Those who are raising it come from the north and are a minority in this world. The present rate of population increase in the developing world is more than 3 percent and is no more than half a percent in the developed countries. Hence, the gap will widen and the relative importance of the developed countries' population number will decrease. Is this the reason for their notion when we know that they control most of the resources, or is the welfare of the world, as they say, behind all the efforts spent on this issue?

Here we come to what is called the "reshaping of the world" and the objectives being sought from it. They are talking about a pollution-free new world, a democratic world where all dictatorships disappear, a world that acknowledges and does not violate human rights and, finally, a world that knows the ideal population number that should be achieved.

We might differ with or agree with some of these policies. We might look for the intentions and interests and say that the environment issue, and similarly the population issue, hides economic purposes. Hundreds of giant companies have an interest in the disappearance of industries accused of causing pollution—such as the refrigerator industry—and in building new industries. Hundreds of giant companies also have an interest in manufacturing birth control products. Some estimates even place this group second to the arms industry.

Therefore, the issue is not devoid of interest and is not always ruled by principles or the public interest. We must spell out what we need and wherein lies our interest.

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The problem in what is called the reshaping of the world lies in the (twisting of the arms of the weak and the poor). The problem is that the United States is threatening that it will have no mercy on those who do not adopt this or that policy, that is the mercy of aid.

The United States has already done it. It has given and has withheld according to political objectives. Recent U.S. statements pointed to a link between commitment to the ICPD conclusions and the granting of aid. Some people—whose sources I do not know—have even spoken about linking aid to agreement to liberalize abortion. When U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry spoke two days ago about the cases where the United States will act militarily, he voiced a new political expression, "the diplomacy of coercion or compulsion." This is the use of economic pressure to compel countries to adopt certain policies, whether this country is Haiti, where they want to topple its regime by invading it, or Russia, China, and even Egypt, which has been grabbed by the U.S., the IMF, and the World Bank negotiators.

If this does happen, we will not be having a new world that is fairer and better but a world as the United States wants it to be. The world in the American way. This is what we should be aware of. This is the prohibited part I referred to. The interests of Egypt or the developing countries are not the same as U.S. ones. While stressing that we might agree or differ, we are not isolated from the world or from the sources of progress and technology.

This is the right arrangement of the cards. This arrangement does not deprive us of the right to condemn free sex or the freedom to have abortions. These are important points, but not all of what the ICPD is seeking. And that is why we are alluding to them.

Religious Scholar Rejects ICPD's Recommendations

NC2308110994 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi has emphasized his rejection of the International Conference for Population and Development's [ICPD] recommendations because they contravene Islamic shari'ah. In an exclusive statement made to AL-SHA'B, he said: "I feel sad and I regret the fact that discussing such ideas is accepted. I regret the fact that those who called for the ICPD and drafted its program believe that Egypt has been so belittled as to be a venue for such a debate." He added: "If the convening of the ICPD in our country is to exploit Egypt's circumstances and needs, we must know that God guarantees us our livelihood. God says in the Koran: "And if ye fear poverty, soon will God enrich you."

Shaykh al-Sha'rawi affirmed his full agreement with and support for the statement released by al-Azhar on the ICPD. He said that al-Azhar represents an Islamic immunity that God has retained for Islam.

Export Increase Noted, Deficit Reduction Urged

NC2208132894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—The total value of Egypt's exports over the past year amounted to 10.595 billion Egyptian pounds [EP], approximately EP 3.643 billion more than the figure for 1990.

The Central Agency for General Mobilization and Statistics explained in a report on Egypt's foreign trade that it exports more than 20 commodities, notably living animals, oils, electrical tools, foodstuff, minerals, chemical products, leather, paper, gems, and works of art.

The report urges an increase in exports to reduce the trade balance deficit, which amounts to EP 16 billion. Some EP 27.550-billion worth of goods were imported last year.

Economic Program Credited

NC2208151294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi announced in a press statement today that the economic reform program is going as planned and that it has reduced the general budget deficit and inflation rate. He said the program has also boosted economic growth by increasing investment in agricultural, industrial, and tourism projects.

Dr. Sidqi said the state is creating the right climate for investment in every field, especially in free trade zones, industrial activity, and new housing projects.

Lawyer Charged With Belonging to 'Extremist' Group

NC2108155094 Paris AFP in English 1337 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 21 (AFP)—The main defence lawyer for armed Muslim militants in Egypt was charged Sunday with belonging to the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group), legal officials said.

Muntasir al-Zayyat has been in detention for three months. He was arrested following a rally in May held to protest the death of a fellow lawyer in police custody.

Security services said they had seized documents from al-Zayyat's home "urging people to join a group whose goal is to undermine the running of state institutions, resist the authorities and threaten unity."

Membership of an outlawed extremist group is punishable by five years' imprisonment under the terms of an anti-terrorist law adopted in 1992.

The prosecutor from the High Court for State Security also decided al-Zayyat should remain in custody for a further 45 days.

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Al-Zayyat is known for his vigorous attacks on the Egyptian government while defending Islamic militants before military courts.

He was a member of a group of leading Muslim fundamentalists and ulemas, or religious experts, who proposed in vain last year to mediate between the state and the militants.

Muslim militants launched a campaign in March 1992 to topple the secular government of President Husni Mubarak which has left about 400 dead.

More than 30 lawyers were rounded up after the May rally organised by the Egyptian Bar Association to protest the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, who they alleged died under police torture.

Egyptian authorities denied the charges, saying Madani suffered an asthma attack.

Three 'Terrorists' Killed in Shootout

NC2208171294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—Three terrorists were killed in a shootout with the security forces in Suhaj today. The terrorists were killed when they opened fire on the security forces who went to arrest them in their furnished apartment on Ahmad al-Hanbali Street in Suhaj.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said that the terrorists were members of the military wing of the Islamic Group. They are: fugitive 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Irfan, fugitive Ahmas Hasub Nur-al-Din, and fugitive Muhammad Ahmad 'Uthman Adam.

Libya

ICO's Diouf Informs al-Qadhdhafi of 'Arafat Letter

LD2108172994 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a letter from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf in his capacity as head of the sixth Islamic summit. In the letter, Diouf informed the brother leader that he has received a letter from Yasir 'Arafat, asking him to circulate it to the Islamic countries that are members of the Islamic Congress Organization [ICO], regarding the Israelis' noncompliance with the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement and their revoking of its contents.

In his letter to Diouf, 'Arafat described the statements of the Israeli prime minister—the terrorist Rabin—and of the Israeli officials on Jerusalem and the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement, as contemptuous toward him.

International Affairs Editor on NATO Meeting

LD2008122594 Tripoli JANA in English 0812 GMT 20 Aug 94

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Aug, JANA—Foreign ministers were due to meet yesterday in NATO [word indistinct] foreign ministers were due to meet yesterday in Brussels [word indistinct].

JANA's editor for international affairs commented on this meeting. He said: The world expects this meeting to take the first step towards dismantling this alliance in conformity with the collapse of most arrangements of the second world war. The editor added smaller nations lack security in the shadow of this alliance and the growing rate of its military activities, continuation of its intervention in the internal affairs of the sovereign independence states which are members of the U.N, its constant fighting against the interests of the smaller nations, its attempts to impose domination on their orientation and capabilities and stifling their claim to their rights to freedom, progress and equality.

The editor stressed "no one can fool us to trust policies which have shown their indulgence in distortion and falsification. We, like other nations of the world, do not feel secure under the shadow of the huge and terrifying, destructive military arsenal which this alliance controls considering its hostile policy which can be described without any doubt as being unfair and unhuman which would lead to asserting that it is an irresponsible policy.

The editor asserted that "all peoples of the world are living under fear and terror as a result of existance of this dangerous alliance which lost all justification for its existance and became merely a colossal instrument of destruction threatening all mankind, peace and justice.

The editor pointed out "so the issue of joining forces against all mankind to end this alliance becomes a just and humane issue which all peoples of the world should adopt in confronting annihilation and destruction.

The editor added that "people's who are directly controlled by colonialist governments, like the peoples of America, England and France, are required to exert effort and be more daring to get rid of this alliance in pursuit of securing thenstability [as received] of the elements of modern mankind civilization.

The editor concluded his commentary by emphasising the need to look into the reason for the continuation of this alliance which was set up in the first place against Hitler, the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc which shows that there is no longer any need for it and it should be dissolved.

Mauritania

President Taya Receives Libyan Envoy al-Humaydi

LD2108210994 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, the president of the republic, received this evening

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at the presidential palace Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the special envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the national press, Maj. al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi said:

[Begin al-Humaydi recording] First, I am very pleased today to be in Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital. [passage omitted]

I am also pleased because I have conveyed to the president the greetings and appreciation of Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, his brother the leader of the revolution, and the Libyan Arab people to our people in Mauritania. I handed him an invitation from the brother leader and the Libyan Arab people to participate in the celebrations by the Arab people on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the revolution. During our meeting with the president, we conducted a long dialogue on many issues—bilateral, Maghreban, and international. I found the president to be very interested in developing our relations. [end recording]

Morocco

Security Agent Said Killed by Algerian Guards

LD1908132194 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Rabat, Aug.19 (MAP)—A Moroccan security agent was shot dead Wednesday by two frontier guards of the Algerian Army in Moroccan territory south of the check post of Jouj Bghal [as received].

Moroccan dailies "LIBERATION" and "AL 'ALAM" which report the news gave no indication on the circumstances of the murder.

Press Condemns Algerian 'Interference' in Sahara

LD1908135994 Rabat MAP in English 1241 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 19 (MAP)—The Moroccan media devoted comments Thursday to the content of the message sent by Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to the Organization of African Unity. The Algerian president's message calls for "collective mobilization" to settle the "conflict in the Sahara" resulting from "the illegal colonization of an African country to another".

For "AL BAYANE" daily, trying to impose the African organization's interference in the Moroccan Sahara issue, denotes the Algerian authorities' will to lead the UN settlement plan to a deadlock. The daily of the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS/opposition) argues that Algeria being a member of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] ought to encourage efforts to solve any source of tension in the region and help the Union dedicate its action to economic development.

AL BAYANE also explains that the Algerian president is trying to divert the Algerian people attention from its own problems and insists Morocco is awaiting the holding of the referendum with serenity, convinced of the fairness of its cause, the national unanimity on this issue and the attachment of the Saharwis to their homeland.

On its part, L'OPINION daily which writes that Algeria is openly hostile to Morocco's territorial integrity denounced the attitude voiced by the Algerian president. The daily said once again, Algeria unveils its genuine intentions and this time in the most open and official way.

The Algerian president spoke out all his rage against Morocco by saying things that serve neither the UN peace process in the Sahara nor cooperation relations between Morocco and Algeria, writes "AL MAGHRIB" (daily of the National Rally of Independents/majority) before adding that Morocco pays no attention to these statements which are contrary to reality.

LIBERATION, daily in French of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP/leftist opposition) notes that the Algerian president who took power in a time of serious crisis in his country should have avoided to be involved in the bad legacy of his predecessors, but instead he seems determined to hamper the UN peace process. It is really sad to see that some mentalities prevailing in the region do not change, the daily concluded.

For its part, AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI denounced the Algerian president's interference in Morocco's internal affairs. For the daily, the content of Zeroual message is extremely serious because it is jeopardizing Moroccan-Algerian relations and threatens to cause a tension similar to the one that prevailed under Boumedienne's reign and to stop the building process of the Arab Maghreb Union. Instead of endeavoring to have the provisions of the Union's treaty respected, Algeria which is AMU acting chairman, is violating these same texts by enabling the secessionists to settle on its territory and undertaking on their behalf diplomatic actions. Morocco, went on the daily, is therefore entitled to ask from Algeria to expel the secessionists in the respect of the AMU treaties.

For AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI, the Algerian president's letter only means that Algeria is getting ready to engage in a dangerous adventure against Morocco.

ANOUAL daily sees in this initiative a vain attempt to aggravate the tension. The daily of the Organization of Democratic and Popular Action (leftist opposition) also noted that the OAU's decolonization committee, now dissolved, is itself convinced that its task is finished.

Morocco is persuaded that for the international public opinion, the Algerian president's letter is meaningless as it contradicts international resolutions which set conditions for the unfolding of the referendum, the daily argued.

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American Among Passengers Killed in Air Crash

LD2208222394 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The operation continues to ascertain the nationality of the victims of the Royal Air Maroc airplane which crashed last night near Agadir with 40 passengers and four crew aboard.

According to the latest information, among the foreign victims are 8 Italians, 5 French, 4 Dutch, 2 Kuwaitis, and 1 American.

Today a technical inquiry committee was formed to investigate the causes of this accident. A TV team is at the scene of the accident. [passage omitted]

The airplane crashed in this mountainous area last night and the causes behind this catastrophe are not yet known, although the initial data leans toward technical error, and this what the black box recording may reveal. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Foreign Ministry Protests Egyptian 'Harassments'

EA2208193594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has summoned the Egyptian charge d'affaires, and passed a strongly worded protest note to him regarding attacks by Egyptian security organs against members of the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Cairo and concerning their continued subjection to provocative harassments. The note called on the authorities of the Cairo regime to stop this behavior immediately.

In a statement issued to AL-INQADH AL-WATANI and published today, Mr. 'Umar Baridu, the first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, stressed that the authorities of the Egyptian regime were still continuing the restrictions, surveillance, and pursuit of members of the diplomatic mission. Electricity and water supplies, as well as communication lines, have remained disconnected for the last two days.

A diplomatic source has described these actions as an attempt on the part of Cairo's ruling regime to divert attention from the political and economic problems that it is facing by creating a crisis with Sudan, through provocations and assaults on members of the country's diplomatic mission in Cairo. He said this behavior was tantamount to a violation of basic international conventions and agreements concerning diplomatic activities.

Egyptians Protest 'Campaign'

NC2208183294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Aug (MENA)—For the second day running, the Sudanese authorities continued to cut off water, electricity, and communications serving the Egyptian Embassy, the Egyptian Consulate, and the residences of the Egyptian general consul, and the Egyptian military attache in Khartoum.

The Sudanese authorities stepped up surveillance around these places and provided patrols in the area with motorbikes and radio devices to watch the movements of the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Khartoum.

Members of the mission decided to stay and sleep in the embassy and the consulate, to reduce their movements, and to show self-restraint.

In a related development, the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum received a memorandum from the Sudanese Foreign Ministry asking that the residences of General Consul 'Umar Qanawi, Assistant Military Attache Nasir Sabir, and the administrative attache be vacated within three months.

The memorandum claims that the three houses were allocated for the Egyptian Army during the bilateral rule, and that no one has the right to occupy them now that the purpose of the allocation has ended.

The Egyptian Embassy presented a protest against the memorandum. The protest denounces this method as part of the escalating Sudanese campaign against Egypt and the Egyptians in Khartoum, especially members of the diplomatic mission.

Opposition Claims 'Carlos' Trained Officials

NC1908124594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] The National Democratic Union of the Sudanese opposition issued a statement today saying that the international terrorist Carlos spent about 10 months in Sudan training Islamic Front officials in the Armed Forces and security and civil defense figures and lecturing terrorists with a view to exporting terror. The statement adds that Carlos was extradited according to a deal giving the Sudanese Government political, economic, and financial assistance from France.

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Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Libyan Envoy, Invitation

LD1908181894 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today received received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, personal envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

After the meeting, Maj. al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi said that he was pleased to meet the president and to convey to him the greetings and respects of his brother, the leader of the 1 September Revolution.

He said that he conveyed to the creator of the 7 November change an invitation from the leader of the Libyan revolution to attend the ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the Libyan revolution. [passage omitted]

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Envoy Denies Reports on Talks With Israel

NC1908211694 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 Aug 94 p 8

[Text] Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League, has ridiculed the reports about secret meetings between Iraqi and Israeli officials in Geneva, declaring: "Such reports do not deserve a comment."

Najm said he does not believe such meetings can occur either in an Arab or European country or through intermediaries.

In exclusive remarks to AL-'ARABI, Najm referred to the official Iraqi statement refusing to allow Jordan to speak on Baghdad's behalf in connection with Baghdad's participation in the multilateral talks with Israel. He said this statement reflects Iraq's position on "Israel."

Najm's position was similar to the position declared by Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi last week when he expressed astonishment and regret at Jordanian Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani's remarks in which he gave himself the right to drag Iraq's name into the so-called peace negotiations with Israel that deal with regional issues such as water, environment, and disarmament. Hammadi added that "Iraq's position on this issue is clear and well-known."

The Jordanian information minister had made a statement to an Israeli radio saying that "Iraq might play an important role in connection with the issues discussed in the context of the multilateral negotiations."

Commenting on the future prospects of Iraq's relations with other Arab countries, Dr. Nabil Najm said that Iraq harbors many friendly feelings for other Arab nations and wishes to foster good relations with them. He cited President Saddam Husayn's recent initiative expressing Iraq's strong desire to heal the Arab nation's wounds and defend its supreme interests.

Najm strongly denied that Iraq is a source of worry for the region, neighboring countries, or the world. He said that Iraq continues to express a sincere wish to foster good ties with all countries and has indeed begun to reap the fruits of this effort. He noted that several Arab and foreign delegations have visited Iraq and signed trade and economic agreements with it.

Commenting on certain fears that Iraq might try to enter a post-sanctions stage via a Western gate, Najm declared: Iraq is proud of its Arabhood and knows how to preserve its Arab character. Its policies are pan-Arab and seek to serve the Arab brothers. In its ties with all neighboring countries and the major powers, Iraq seeks to express its positions clearly on the UN Security Council resolutions that it has committed itself to implement. Now the other parties must help Iraq to end the sanctions that have harmed many other countries in addition to Iraq itself, including Turkey, Iran, Jordan, and Egypt.

Najm noted that several major powers including China, Russia, and France have changed their attitude to the embargo on Iraq.

Najm pointed out that Iraq's relations with its neighbors are noticeably improving and that the visit by Riyad al-Qays, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, to Turkey is part of this process and designed to continue earlier talks in Ankara and Baghdad about emptying the Iraqi oil pipeline in line with the recent UN Security Council discussions of this issue. The pipeline, extending from Karkuk to the Mediterranean through Turkish territory, was closed in August 1990. For the past several months, Turkey has been seeking the Security Council's permission to clean and repair it. The pipeline is in danger of eroding because 12 million barrels of oil are trapped inside it.

Najm also cited President Saddam Husayn's references to Iran on the sixth anniversary of Iran's agreeing to a cease-fire that ended the eight-year war between them. He recalled the Iraqi president's words to the Iranian security officials and people: "The recent past, although bitter, will not abolish our Islamic and humanitarian responsibility toward you."

Najm said that the president stressed that "a sincere, honorable, and honest door to sound relations among Muslims and neighbors is still open to everyone, including the Iranian people."

Child Killed, 13 Wounded in Baghdad Bomb Explosion

Car Bomb Near Newspaper Office

JN2208162794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—Agents affiliated with the enemies of Iraq committed a crime in Baghdad this evening when they parked a booby-trapped car near AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper head office. The car exploded at approximately 1700 [1300 GMT] today. As a result of the explosion, a child was martyred and thirteen persons were wounded. The victims were residents of an area adjacent to the newspaper head office. Also, as a result of the crime, five houses and a number of vehicles were extensively damaged, but the newspaper head office was only slightly damaged.

Clinton 'Agents' Blamed

JN2308080294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0621 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that the criminal explosion that took place near AL-JUMHURIYAH's head office yesterday was committed by agents of U.S. President Clinton.

In an article by its editor-in-chief, the newspaper said: Had this crime been committed in Philadelphia or Los Angeles, would the U.S. President have remained silent, or would he have raised a hue and cry?

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Yesterday, agents who are enemies of Iraq committed an ugly crime by parking a booby-trapped car near AL-JUMHURIYAH's head office in Baghdad. When the car exploded, a child was martyred, 13 citizens were injured, and severe damage was caused to five houses and a number of cars.

The newspaper said: We do not expect Clinton to denounce this crime for two reasons. First, because the criminals are supporters of the U.S. President who were implementing the instructions of his intelligence organs and agents. And, second, because the U.S. President is personally responsible for greater crimes committed against the Iraqi people, topped by the siege that he insists on continuing although he knows it leads to more deaths of children, women, and the elderly each day.

The newspaper concluded by saying the Iraqis are united and have one position, that Clinton should know this, and that he has no hope of breaking this unity.

Saddam Increases Security Personnel Allowances

JN2208134394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has decreed that the allowances of officers and members of the Internal Security Forces be increased, an official source at the Interior Ministry reported to the Iraqi News Agency. The source said that this generous deed by President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, will improve the living standard of the security personnel and help them cope with the cost of living under the conditions of the unjust blockade imposed on our steadfast country.

Accordingly, the officers' housing, clothing, services, and post allowances will be increased. Lump sum allowances will be granted to those working at the Public Police Directorate.

The commissioners' housing and clothing allowances will be increased and a sustenance allowance will be granted. Lump sum allowances will be granted to those working at the Public Police Directorate.

As for noncommissioned officers and police personnel, a clothing allowance will be granted and sustenance allowances be increased. Allowances will be granted to those working at the Public Police Directorate.

The allowances of the police college and preparatory school cadets will also be increased.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session; Discusses Projects

JN2108201494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has said that now that men of evil have failed to attain their goals and we have entered the homestretch of the sanctions, we can complete major projects and make sure Iraq emerges a sturdy and healthy country.

President Saddam Husayn's remarks were made at the 15th cabinet session, which he chaired. His excellency told the cabinet ministers it was essential to keep reminding the general public and government departments of the requirements for success by laying out facts and the duties they are required to perform, as well as educating them on the importance of patience and the accomplishments made under the sanctions. This must be done so everyone can see the way to increased productivity and understand the critical importance of honesty and accuracy.

The cabinet was discussing irrigation and reclamation of major land holdings, including those on the banks of the Saddam River, al- 'Izz River, Mother of Battles River, al-Qadisiyah River, and their tributaries. Irrigation Ministry experts outlined the admirable benefits of these projects—both those completed and those about to be completed. The benefits include a doubling of arable land and agricultural production, as well as opening job and investment opportunities and the attendant rise in the standard of living.

His excellency said that all the river and irrigation projects in the Abbaside era failed because people did not do their share for the past seven centuries. However, the achievements of the Iraqis under the sanctions regime, whether in reconstruction or in new projects, must be maintained in terms of cost and time and balancing machinery and materials. The president said that keeping to the set timetables would boost morale and conserve public money and help complete the tasks at minimum cost.

The cabinet also considered a plan by the Ministry of Industry and Minerals calling for an expansion in growing sugar beet and toward that end approved production incentives and the allotment of agricultural land.

Technicians Repair Civilian Airport Equipment

JN2108160394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—Iraqi engineers and technicians have repaired and put into operation equipment at civilian airports.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Transport and Communications told the Iraqi News Agency that at both the Saddam International and the al-Basrah International airports, navigational equipment was repaired and put in place, the radar system was repaired, and a weather laboratory was built.

Kurdish Speaker Urges Islamists To Stop Attacks

NC2208180994 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Kurdistan National Council Speaker Jawhar Namiq Salim has addressed a message to the Islamic Movement Political Bureau urging the movement's forces to cease their attacks and shelling of the (Dishtar) areas near the Iranian borders.

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Rabin's Office Denies Golan Withdrawal Remarks

TA2308114794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Sources at the prime minister's bureau have denied that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke about an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in an interview to the Arab newspaper AL-HAYAH.

Bureau officials told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the prime minister did not utter even one word about a withdrawal from the Golan Heights and only asserted in the interview that any agreement with Syria would be conducted in stages and that it could take years before the agreement was implemented in full.

Peres: Mubarak To Persuade 'Arafat To Amend Covenant

TA2208111694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Aug 94 pp A1, A12

[Report by Yerah Tal and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has enlisted Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to persuade PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to take more determined action to uproot terrorism and amend the Palestinian National Covenant. Mubarak is due to meet with 'Arafat in Cairo today to discuss the continued implementation of the self-rule accord.

Peres reported at yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting on his talks in Alexandria and Gaza. He said that Mubarak agreed that promoting and strengthening the peace process with the Palestinians to a large extent depends on the support it receives from Israeli public opinion. Therefore, 'Arafat must take Israeli public opinion more into consideration and try to convince Israelis that he is forthright, among other things through a more intensive effort to uproot terrorism and to amend the Palestinian National Covenant. "The Palestinians are doing themselves and not only the Israelis favor by amending the covenant," Peres said.

Mubarak agreed with Peres that if terrorism is not curtailed and the covenant is not amended, as the PLO undertook in the Oslo agreement, there is a danger that Israeli public opinion will not support the government's moves and the continuation of the peace process. Mubarak noted that he has also learned the importance of Israeli public opinion and that he takes it into consideration in his moves. In that context, Mubarak accepted a Peres request to have the Egyptian editor's committee accompany Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa when he visits Israel later in the month. Mubarak also announced that he would take steps to tighten cooperation between Israeli and Egyptian research institutions and universities.

On the Palestinian issue, Mubarak informed Peres that he would make clear to 'Arafat something else the foreign minister raised in their meeting: that maintaining security is also a Palestinian interest, since only if quiet is upheld and security is assured will it be possible to increase the number of work permits for Palestinians in Israel. Mubarak and 'Arafat met yesterday on the PLO chairman's return from Tunis.

The foreign minister reported that he heard from 'Arafat charges that the agreement with Jordan is aimed at harming the Palestinians and was made at their expense. Peres said that he made it clear to all sides that each agreement is independent and that one is not made at the expense of another. At the cabinet meeting, the plan to link the electricity grids of Israel and Jordan in the al-'Aqabah area was reported. The plan can become operational once the Jordanians approve it. At a later stage, the plan includes linking the grids at other locations in the 'Arava and Irbid.

Peres said last night that Israel definitely expects the Palestinians to fulfill their commitments and amend the Palestinian National Covenant. He said Israel will not put up any obstacles to the Palestine National Council convening in Gaza. The foreign minister stressed that the Palestinians must understand that peace is the best option for them as well as for Israel. He noted that if 'Arafat and the Palestinians do not fulfill their promises the world would find it difficult to put its trust in them and if terrorism continues nobody will invest in the autonomy, something that would put the entire agreement at risk. [passage omitted]

Papers View PLO's Failure To Amend Covenant

TA2208123294

[Editorial Report] In their 22 August issues, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English and Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ and Tel Aviv 'Al HAMISHMAR in Hebrew carry editorials referring to Yasir 'Arafat's failure to amend the Palestinian Covenant clauses that refer to the destruction of the State of Israel as he pledged before the agreements with the PLO were signed.

THE JERUSALEM POST's 1,000-word editorial on page 6, entitled "Unfulfilled Commitment," says: "Before Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin agreed to approve the Oslo Declaration of Principles, 'Arafat made two important commitments. One was to renounce and denounce violence, a pledge which obligates the PLO not only to stop all terrorist activities and condemn them, but to pursue and punish Palestinian terrorists who defy the agreement.

"The other was a commitment to convene the Palestine National Council (PNC) for the express purpose of abolishing the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant which call for the dismantling of Israel."

"Yet in the year since 'Arafat pledged to revise the Covenant, he has made no move to convene the PNC. The PLO chief has tried to belittle the importance of the Covenant, but the fact is that it is the charter of the PLO,

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viewed by Palestinians as a constitution which supersedes all declarations made by individual leaders."

"Nor is the problem one of 'correcting' a few paragraphs. The Covenant calls for dismantling Israel, a state it considers illegal; it denies the Jews, as individuals, any rights in the country; it calls for expelling all Jews who arrived after 'the Zionist invasion' (that is, after 1917); it rejects any settlement based on compromise and denies the possibility of any solution except a military one. Indeed, if all the 'offensive' clauses are eliminated, very little will be left.

"After a long silence on the issue, both Rabin and Peres recently declared that the PLO must convene the PNC and revise the Covenant. 'Arafat responded by specifically promising he would do so in August. But on Saturday, 'Arafat chaired a Tunis meeting of the Fatah, his own PLO faction, after which his spokesman declared the PLO must not and will not revise the Covenant until 'Israel recognized the establishment of a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem its capital.'

"The decision, made with all the Fatah 'moderates,' including Nabil Sha'th and Faysal al-Husayni, is a flagrant breach of the commitment 'Arafat made to Rabin almost exactly a year ago. What remains to be seen is whether the government will again describe this spit in its face as a drop of rain, find a way to excuse it, and proceed to the next agreement," the POST concludes.

The HA'ARETZ 800-word editorial on page B1, entitled "The Covenant Has Not Been Amended Yet," notes that "when the prime minister signed the letter to 'Arafat in which he recognized the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian nation, he believed that the PLO leader would keep his promise" to amend the relevant Palestinian Covenant clauses; "however, 11 months have gone by, and the PNC has not even discussed the matter." HA'ARETZ points out that the demand by the PNC secretary general that "the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraw from all West Bank cities prior to the PNC debate on amending the covenant is not anchored in any written document," concluding that the only way to interpret this statement is "as an expression of his intention to force Israel to make a move to which it is not committed in order to attain the changes."

HA'ARETZ asks: "Does 'Arafat really believe that Israel and the Palestinian self-government—and a Palestinian state at a later stage—can live side by side while the Palestinian Covenant ties the liberation of Palestine with the 'elimination of Zionism'?" HA'ARETZ claims that the clauses should be revoked not only because of the promise to Israel but "in order to convince Israelis and Palestinians alike that the Oslo agreement indeed launched a new era in the relations between the peoples." The editorial concludes: "Israel frequently takes 'Arafat's difficulties into account. Rabin, who is engaged in a domestic struggle for the promotion of the peace process, deserves to be helped by the PLO leader and not hindered by him."

'AL HAMISHMAR, in its 500-word editorial on page 9 entitled "Life Is Stronger Than the Covenant," argues that the fact that the covenant has not yet been amended only serves the Israeli opposition to the Oslo agreement. "Anyone looking for arguments against the agreement can find plenty of them in the Palestinian Covenant," the editorial says. The paper claims that even after Israel announced that it will allow previously banned PNC members entry into Israel, it is not at all certain that 'Arafat can garner the majority needed to revoke the clauses. Nevertheless, the paper believes that "the peace process has started moving, and it will move forward with or without the Palestinian Covenant. It appears that the Palestinians need a lot of time to digest and accept the changes that are taking place," and "Israel must be very patient." "It would be good if 'Arafat could deliver the goods, implement the Oslo decisions, and immediately cancel the disputed clauses. If this is not possible at this time, however, the peace process can move ahead even without this decision."

Likud, Moledet, Government Official on Pact

TA2308075094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The Likud faction demands that the prime minister immediately stop the deliberations on the continued transfer of powers to the PLO until that organization cancels the clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant that call for the annihilation of Israel.

Moledet's leader, Rehav'am Ze'evi, called on the prime minister to blatantly demand that Yasir 'Arafat instruct the Palestinian police to handle the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. If he does not do so, the discussion of the continued transfer of powers should not go on, Ze'evi says.

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir says that the accord with the Palestinians is successful. The situation in Gaza is more stable and terrorism is declining. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el the Foreign Ministry director general emphasized that on most counts the Palestinians observe the accord, although they do not do enough in the security and economy spheres. They account for this by organizational difficulties, and I assume that the Palestinian leadership will act to do what is necessary in these spheres, Savir said. They should not be examined with a magnitude glass day in and day out in order to seek one mistake or another.

As for the autonomy police commander's remarks that he has not yet received an instruction from the political echelon to stop the Hamas terrorists, Uri Savir makes it clear that Israel demands that the Palestinians make every possible effort to put an end to violence. The Palestinians should distinguish between an opposition which expresses its objection to the accord verbally, and those who carry out violent acts against it.

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Lubrani Discusses Hizballah, Peace Talks

NC2208144594 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Uri Lubrani, the Israeli Government's coordinator of Lebanese affairs and head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Lebanon, blames the leadership triumvirate, especially those in Ba'bda, for the recent terrorist operation that targeted the border area and in which innocent civilians were killed.

He said this leadership triumvirate is proud of the killing and calls such acts Lebanon's strategic choice. Noble Lebanon is innocent of these acts. He stressed that the Israeli army always tries its hardest not to harm civilians while the terrorism of Hizballah and others devotes all its resources to killing innocent civilians.

Speaking at a news conference he held in Marj 'Uyun this afternoon, Lubrani said: We are at the climax of something and will allow no one to harm the peace process. There is a noticeable increase in terrorist operations, especially by Hizballah. When I say Hizballah, I mean that their orders come from Iran, not from Lebanon. Hizballah's members carry out these orders, which aim to impede the peace process. Lubrani noted that Syria's rulers could stop these acts if they want.

Asked by our correspondent about Israel saying recently that it would continue to strike the terrorists and his stating at the weekend that Israel would not be pushed into a war with Hizballah that would impede the peace process, Lubrani replied: When we say we are in a war against Hizballah we expect this terrorist organization to strike the border area, northern Israel, the South Lebanese Army, and the Israeli army. I said that Hizballah wants to push Israel into operations that would halt the peace process. We will not be pushed into such a thing. But, at the same time, we will do all we have to do and all that we are required to do.

Lubrani went on to say: We will make no change in the current situation until we are sure that Hizballah cannot inflict damage on the border area and northern Israel.

Regarding reports that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will get Lebanon in return for signing a peace treaty with Israel, Lubrani expressed his belief that Lebanon will not be a peace gift and that no one wants it to be. He added: I reiterate what I said this morning that there will be some developments in the peace negotiations in the coming few weeks. Progress in the peace talks is always positive. You saw what happened with Jordan and I hope the same will happen with the Syrians and the Lebanese. The Jordanians have paid nothing in return for peace. I do not believe Lebanon need pay any price in return for peace.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad 'Activists' Detained

TA2208183994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Early this morning, the security forces detained 15 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists in Qabatiyah in the Janin District. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that some of the detainees have been detained before on suspicion of operating in the name of Hamas.

Rabin Promises Settlers Road To Bypass Jericho

TA2208110594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Sixteen million shekels is to be invested to complete construction of a new road bypassing autonomous Jericho. This, according to Jewish residents of the Jordan Rift Valley, was the agreement reached this morning at a meeting with Prime Minister Rabin. At the moment, Israelis travelling in the area must either pass through Jericho or use an unpaved detour.

After the talks, the Jordan Valley settlers said compensation was also promised for families undergoing financial difficulties as a result of damage to their crops. A special team is to be set up by the Ministry of Finance to decide which families are entitled to the special grants.

Government-Built Houses Sold in Golan Settlement

TA2208121594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpts] More than 30 out of a total of 80 new homes put up for sale yesterday in Qatzrin were purchased, despite continuing uncertainty over the future of the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

The price tag of just NIS 160,000 [new Israeli shekels] for a 70 square meter ground-floor apartment with a garden and approved extension plans, might also have something to do with the demand.

The 80 houses put on sale yesterday were constructed by the Shikun Ufituah government housing company. They are part of a last batch of nearly 200 recently completed new homes in Qatzrin. [passage omitted]

Some 500 homes on another new housing site in the town have all been sold already and most are occupied.

Syrian-Jordanian Relations Reportedly Improve

TA2208175294 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] A report that reached Jerusalem today indicates that there has been an improvement in Syrian-Jordanian relations. After more than a year with no Syrian ambassador in Amman, such an ambassador will be appointed soon. The Syrians even stopped disrupting Jordanian television broadcasts, after doing so for many years. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that Jerusalem believes this is another sign of Syria's intention to make progress in the negotiations with Israel.

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Writers Review Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism

TA2208171994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST (MAGAZINE supplement) in English 19 Aug 94 pp 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

[Report by Steve Rodan and Jacob Dallal]

[Text] Sheikh Ra'id Salah removes his sandals, walks barefoot to the far side of the lawn across from the Prime Minister's Office In Jerusalem, kneels toward Mecca and chants the short afternoon prayer. He then returns to the protest tent, where he and other Arab mayors have been living for more than a month, to meet his next visitor.

Hadash MK Saleh Salim, who is also mayor of Kafr Iblin, is greeted warmly and is immediately bombarded by questions from Ra'id's colleagues. Why haven't the Arab Knesset members done more to resolve the strike of Arab mayors, pressing the government to erase their municipal debts? Why don't they threaten to end their support for the government of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

Salim waits until there is silence. Finally, he says that he will call on the other Arab parliamentarians to make the municipal strike their priority and will raise the issue with Rabin.

Ra'id, as he is popularly known, appears deep in thought, nods slowly and says "Ihtiram" or respect in Arabic, a sign of approval. The other mayors quickly pick up the cue and give Salim three cheers. Ra'id adds "Aleihum," the Arabic equivalent of "Go for it."

"The Islamic movement is behind you," an aide to Ra'id shouts.

Ra'id smiles. Salim looks stone-faced.

A decade ago, Ra'id was unknown, roaming the Arab countryside preaching Islam to the few who would listen. Today he is solemnly addressed as sheikh by the top Arab politicians. Ra'id, 36, is the mayor of the city of Umm el-Fahm and recognized as the one of leading figures in the Arab sector. It was Ra'id and his colleagues who initiated and organized the tent protest against the government and chose to raise the temperature in a protest that turned violent on July 31.

Ra'id's rise parallels that of the Islamic movement in this country. From a loose network of preachers in the 1980s, the fundamentalists now are poised to become the leading political force among Israel's 800,000 Arabs. They head six municipalities and are members of about a dozen more. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party, and the impending split in the Arab Democratic Party, the Islamic movement is quickly filling a vacuum in the Arab electorate.

Ra'id and his colleagues now dominate key Arab political groups, such as the Local Arab Council Heads, of which he is deputy chairman, and the Arab Follow-up Committee. Their influence is slowly affecting the type of education Arab students receive in state schools, the clergy appointed to head mosques and fill religious courts, and the life-style practiced in Arab villages and towns around the country.

Today, Ra'id and the Islamic movement are debating whether to embark on their most daring political step: to run in the next elections for Knesset. If the gamble proves successful, the Islamic Movement will eliminate what is left of the secular Arab leadership.

Fundamentalist MKs with close links to Hamas and Sudan might end up deciding the next government coalition. Some Islamic leaders see this as their way of influencing the Middle East peace process, about which they have serious reservations.

If the gamble fails, Islamic activists say, the movement might fall part, with the moderates joining another Arab party and the militants trying to transform more Arab towns in fundamentalist strongholds.

Privately, Ra'id is discussing the possibility an Islamic campaign for Knesset; some of his colleagues say he appears receptive to the idea. But Ra'id refuses to discuss the proposal publicly. Instead, he lets Kamal Rayan, the mayor of Kafr Bara, do most of the talking for him.

"At this point, we have an intention (to run)," says Rayan, a leading Islamic spokesman. "But we haven't made a formal decision yet."

Many in the Islamic movement now feel strong enough to at least embark on a coalition with other Arab politicians. Raphael Israeli, a leading researcher on Israeli Arabs at Hebrew University's Truman Institute and author of Muslim Fundamentalism in Israel, estimates that the Islamic Movement commands the allegiance of one-quarter to one-third of Israel's 600,000 Moslems. If the movement ran an independent slate, Israeli believes it would receive three to five mandates in the Knesset.

"They are taking advantage of the democratic rules of the game," Yisre'eli says. "It (the intention to run for the Knesset) is a sign that they felt they can translate their strength on the national level and take advantage of the open democratic process to further their position."

Islamic proponents of running for the Knesset acknowledge that they're playing it safe. They say their plan is to form an all-Arab slate of candidates for the next parliament, which would combine fundamentalist candidates as well as veteran Arab politicians. The most prominent name being proposed to join the joint list is Ahmad al-Tibi, the al-Tayyibah-based gynecologist who for the last year has served as an adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Another is Talib al-Sani', member of the Arab Democratic Party.

Islamic leaders say they are considering several candidates. They include Rayan of Kafr Bara; Ibrahim

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Khatib, a teacher from Jaljuliya, and Kafr Qasim Mayor Ibrahim Sarsur. The head of the Islamic movement, Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, says he will not be a candidate.

Organizers of the list say they are confident that it will attract plenty of support. One organizer, who requested anonymity, says a survey by a unnamed Tel Aviv pollster showed that the Islamic-independent list would obtain three Knesset seats. Islamic leaders say they expect at least four mandates.

The votes would come largely at the expense of the Arab-Jewish HADASH party and the Arab Democratic Party, which is said to be undergoing a leadership crisis. The main competitors are the Zionist parties, particularly Labor and Meretz.

For years, al-Tibi has been developing ties with the Islamic movement. Although he refuses to say whether he will join the proposed list, he makes it clear there is a need for a new political party that merges fundamentalist and independent politicians.

"The political map in the Arab sector has to change and it will change entirely," al-Tibi says. "There is a political vacuum and it must be filled by leaders who have proven themselves with obtaining the trust of the public."

To the Islamic movement, running for Knesset would be a major change in tactics. For years, Moslem activists had urged Arabs to boycott parliamentary elections, to express their opposition to, and alienation from, the State of Israel.

That boycott began to significantly weaken in 1988, when Arab political parties courted and received Islamic support. The Arab Democratic Party, founded by Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, appealed to Moslems with the following call: "Moslems must vote for a person who embraces the call. There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger."

Virtually all of the Islamic leaders are under 40, with many of them educated both in Israeli universities as well as in Moslem seminaries. They move comfortably through the halls of power in Jerusalem; unlike many of their secular colleagues, they don't engage in polemics with Jewish government officials. They acknowledge that their vision is that of an Islamic state in Israel. But they stress that they are practical people with unlimited patience.

The Islamic?ote. "Oh Brothers, you are men of great promise. Here is Galilee and here is the port and Jerusalem, the pearl of the East and the world."

To their Arab critics, the fundamentalists want one thing: power. "It is a political movement in the guise of religion," says Ahmad Abu-Asa, mayor of Jatt. "They use religion to form the movement. They are blinding the weaker stratas in society, those weak economically and those weak intellectually."

For Darwish, the issue is not power. Before the 1992 elections, Darwish suggested that the Islamic fundamentalists present a slate; however, he was foiled by opponents of the proposal.

Opposition to the shaykh has been led by Ra'id, the Umm al-Fahm mayor. Those close to the mayor say his primary reason is theological: running for the Knesset would represent recognition of the Jewish state.

Khalid Muhana, editor of SAWT AL-HAQQ, puts it another way: "We will not be able to serve the people from the Knesset. Even if we get 17 or 18 seats, I expect all the Jewish parties to make a coalition to stop us from getting into government."

Sources close to Ra'id and Darwish say the debate over the Knesset has harmed the Islamic movement. Islamic leaders have been unable to establish bodies that would vote on the issue. Ra'id says the issue should be decided by a council consisting of shaykhs from every Arab locality. Darwish wants the decision made by the newly founded 10-member Council of Koran Sages, composed of the six Islamic mayors, Darwish and several representatives of Islamic charities.

"I do not rule out a split," says a former adviser to the movement.

The shaykh worries that a Knesset campaign is a no-win situation. If his candidates fail, the movement will be finished. If they succeed, politics could tarnish the movement's squeaky-clean image.

"I am not ready to decide on the Knesset," says Darwish while sitting in his sparsely furnished living room in Kafr Qasim. "But the Arab electorate is pressing. The Arabs feel that the Islamic movement is their movement. They press the movement's young leaders to press the shaykh."

"For the Arab sector, this is a dramatic decision," he says. "I tried this once and it didn't work. Maybe this time it will succeed."

Darwish's first attempt at politics goes back 15 years. Then, as a young shaykh who shed his earlier communist support, Darwish was member of the Usrat al-Jihad (Family of Jihad). The organization was the first attempt to form an Islamic fundamentalist network, similar to those springing up in many Arab countries, in reaction to the shock of their defeat in the Six Day War.

Israeli Arabs were an easy target for the Islamic revival. Despite modernization, Arab society has remained highly traditional and many Moslems were uncomfortable with the Marxist ideology touted by the communist Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. In the 1970's, Israeli Moslems were inviting renowned clerics from Judaea, Samaria and Gaza to deliver sermons. Young Moslems, such as Darwish, flocked to Islamic colleges in the territories.

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Darwish's Islamic group embarked on a campaign of sabotage against Israel, setting fire to Jewish farms and state forests, and attacking fellow Moslems who sold liquor or who publicly violated Islamic tenets. In 1979, after a year of attacks, Darwish and about 60 of his colleagues were arrested.

In jail, Darwish announced he would abandon violence. Still, he continued to find himself on the wrong side of the law. In October 1986, Darwish compared the 1956 massacre of 48 Arabs in Kafr Qasim—mistaken for terrorists by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops—to the European pogroms that led to the Nazi genocide of Jews during World War II. He also supported the PLO's right of return and armed struggle against Israel.

Two months later, Darwish was issued a six-month order from the head of IDF Central Command which confined him to Kafr Qasim and required him to report daily at 10 a.m. to the district police station in Petah Tiqva. The order said the shaykh "posed a danger to public security."

Darwish emerged as a political kingmaker during the 1989 municipal elections. Five Islamic activists were elected mayor and 45 others as councilmen and they immediately changed life in their towns. They passed ordinances that banned alcohol, in conformance with Islamic law. They pressured for the closure of entertainment spots, including coffee houses.

Male and female teenagers were asked to sit separately in class. Women were pressured to cover their hair and knees. In an effort that echoed those of some haredi [Jewish ultra-Orthodox] communities, the mayors even pressed for separate bus stops. In cities such as Umm al-Fahm, main streets were lined with bright signs reading Allahu Akbar, or God is great.

One of the biggest changes has taken place in the Beduin city of Rahat. When Shaykh Jum'a al-Qasasi won the elections for mayor in 1989, he changed the way Beduin view Islam. Until 1985, no more than 50 worshipers could be found in the town's only mosque. Today, Rahat's half-a-dozen mosques are packed with thousands of worshipers.

The coffee houses no longer serve liquor. The local soccer team takes a break during games for prayer. Like other Islamic-controlled towns, Jum'a's has established nurseries, sports league, community and senior citizen centers, dental clinics and numerous charities.

Shaykh Jum'a's model is the Orthodox Jewish community. He says he enjoys seeing young religious Jews, in modest attire, attending university. "This, too, is the basis of Islam," he says. "We try to send students abroad to learn the things we need, like gynecology or nursing."

Darwish's model is the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Party, which he sees as a devout religious movement led by a politically moderate sage who cares for the physically and spiritual needs of its constituency. His admiration for SHAS is matched by his dissatisfaction with the Arab caucus in the Knesset. He believes the Arab parliamentarians, who have the power to topple the government, have failed to achieve significant improvements in the Arab sector, or to press for greater Israeli concessions to the Palestinians.

The shaykh, who quotes figures from Yosi Sarid to George Bernard Shaw, wants Moslems, rather than Jewish government officials, to administer their religious courts and appoint their judges. He has called for the return of tens of thousands of dunams of Arab land confiscated by the state over the past decades. He wants the Rabin government to agree to Arab control over eastern Jerusalem.

"The Arabs will not accept a hesitant (Arab) leadership," Darwish says. "They will not accept a leadership that cries every four years to its electorate with excuses of why it didn't achieve anything.

"A young Arab works in Tel Aviv and Petah Tiqva and sees development there," he continues. "Then, he returns to this garbage dump (Kafr Qasim) and gets frustrated. If there is no prosperity in the Arab economy I fear an explosion. How long can they wait? Now there is peace. Why isn't there prosperity?"

It's a question that touches a nerve in the Israeli Arab sector. After years of clamoring to be what they termed "the bridge to the Arab world," Israeli Arabs feel that the Middle East peace process has passed them by. In what seemed like one fell swoop, Israel recognized the PLO, agreed to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho, redeploy IDF troops in the territories and discuss the future of such highly explosive issues as refugees and Jerusalem.

Israeli Arabs haven't felt the benefits of these changes. Their society has remained with severe problems. A 1993 study by Amin Faris for the Institute for Israeli Arab Studies reports that 50 percent of Arab families, including 70 percent of youngsters below 18 and 82 percent of those retirement age, are living under the poverty line.

Official statistics report a 20 percent school drop-out rate, with as many as 55 percent of students quitting grade school. 'Adil Abu-Raya, the head of the Arab anti-drug group al-Hilal, reports an increase in drug abuse among Arabs. He estimates the number of users at 35,000 and dealers at 10,000. Arabs, he says, account for 25 percent of drug users and 30 percent of dealers.

To many Arab voters, the secular Arab leadership, particularly the parliamentary caucus, has done little to bring these problems to the fore. They are angry that Arab parliamentarians have agreed to support the government to ensure that the peace process continues. They are confused over what their role will be once Israel achieves peace with all of its Arab neighbors. Their fear is that the Israeli Arabs will become a neglected minority

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while their Palestinian brethren living just minutes away will enjoy independence and economic prosperity.

It is here that the Islamic movement provides an answer. Darwish says he has drafted a detailed platform on where the movement stands on a range of issues. He refuses to give details but Shaykh Kamal of Kafr Kanna, a leading Islamic figure, says the platform centers around the movement's demand for Palestinian control of eastern Jerusalem. Tomorrow night, thousands of Moslems will flock to Kafr Kanna, north of Nazareth, to attend the annual Islamic festival entitled this year "Jerusalem First," a play on the Gaza-Jericho First accord.

The Jerusalem issue is the focus of Islamic dissatisfaction with the PLO-Israel accord signed last September. Since then, Ra'id has several times refused to meet 'Arafat; he didn't participate in an Israeli delegation that greeted the PLO leader upon his arrival in Gaza last month. Ra'id and other Islamic leaders finally met 'Arafat on his invitation on August 9.

The discussion revolved around 'Arafat's treatment of Hamas, 'Arafat's Islamic opposition and an ally of the Israeli Islamic movement. The Israeli Moslems expressed concern that Palestinian authorities might crack down on Hamas as they have done on pro-Jordanian elements.

Participants report that 'Arafat assured the Israeli Moslems that he will tolerate his Islamic opposition and then asked Darwish to mediate between the PLO chief and Hamas. Darwish was quoted as saying, "We'll be happy to as long as it is done under Israeli law."

Islamic leaders in Israel say they have supported Hamas virtually from its beginning. They organized the local campaign to return the more than 400 Hamas members deported to south Lebanon in December 1992. The movement sends NIS 500,000 [new Israeli shekels] monthly to help Palestinian families, funds distributed through the fundamentalist movement in Gaza and the territories. Israeli Moslems have adopted 4,400 children in Gaza.

Officials say the Islamic relationship with Hamas has gone far beyond humanitarian concerns. Authorities say SAWT AL-HAQQ offices in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza have been used by Hamas members for terrorist activities. In 1993, SAWT AL-HAQQ's Jerusalem correspondent, Muhammad 'Isa, was arrested and convicted of killing Border Police officer Avi Toledano. Officials say Hamas fugitives have taken refuge in several Arab towns controlled by the Islamic movement.

Some of these contacts have involved high-level Islamic activists. In early 1993, Muhammad Salih, a Hamas operative from Chicago, brought more than a million dollars to Hamas agents in the territories. Salih was later arrested, charged with conveying orders and providing funds for Hamas to embark on a terrorist offensive.

Salih later confessed to Israeli authorities that he met with Islamic leaders in Israel, such as Khatib and Umm al-Fahm deputy mayor Sulayman Akbariyya. Roni Shaqed, co-author of a recently published book on Hamas and a reporter for YEDI'OT AHARONOT, says Salih told interrogators that he used secret codes to communicate with the two Islamic leaders.

Salih is now on trial in Ramallah military court, conducted largely behind closed doors. Neither Khatib nor Akbariyya has been charged but both acknowledge meeting Salih.

Khatib says he has known Salih since 1990 when they met at an Islamic conference in Kansas City. Salih arrived at his Kafr Kanna home along with Akbariyya, the shaykh says, and the two visitors ate lunch and left. Khatib says Salih did not relay messages, offer money or communicate in code.

"I have nothing to hide," Khatib says. "Logic dictates that if I did anything illegal I would have been arrested."

Akbariyya says he first met Salih in 1989. The deputy mayor does not say whether he was questioned by the security services about these meetings with Salih, but he adds; "They have come many times to talk to me about my contacts with Islamic groups abroad," he says.

The Islamic conference in Kansas City was regarded as the start of the Israeli movement's links with its counterparts worldwide. So far this year, Israeli Moslems have attended conferences in the US, Britain, Romania and Turkey and have met with activists from Sudan, including the head of that nation's Islamic movement, Hassan Tourabi [name as published]. Their activity is 100 percent legal. Their aim is to be part of a world Islamic movement that will provide Israeli Moslems with the same political depth and support that Israel has with world Jewry.

"We have strategic depth in the Arab and Islamic world and indeed in the entire world," says Sarsur, the Kafr Qasim mayor. "I want to come to a situation where there are no political boundaries."

Sarsur, 35, says the Israeli Moslem delegation has debated their foreign counterparts many times over one question: How to deal with the Jewish state. Virtually every Islamic movement cites the Koran in its denial of the legitimacy of Israel. Islamic activists stress that violence cannot work to turn the country into an Islamic state.

Instead, the path must be based on pragmatism, patience, the use of democratic rights. Violence, the Israeli activists warn, would result in the ban of the movement, as took place in numerous Arab countries. Sarsur recalls one conference where his colleagues abroad read the Israeli movement's program and agreed that this should be adopted by their groups as well.

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"We have seen the experience of other Islamic movements in the Arab world and we don't want the Islamic movement here to fall into the same trap," Sarsur says.

Sarsur hopes that Israeli Arabs can also gain materially from these ties. He hopes that the Middle East peace process will allow his movement to legally solicit the rich Gulf states for funds. Today, Israeli analysts estimate that the movement receives about $3 million annually from Moslem communities abroad. Shaqed says much of that money is said to come from the Saudi-based World Islamic League, an assertion disputed by Islamic leaders.

"I would love it if Israel would let us go to Arab countries or the Gulf countries and let us raise money to solve our problems," Sarsur says. "If we had the permission, we would go directly to these regimes. We would fulfill all of the government requirements to ensure that the money arrives at their destination."

But some Islamic leaders suggest another reason for the ties with foreign governments and international agencies. They regard this as preparation for the eventual demand by Israeli Arabs, led by the Islamic movement, to win international recognition of their community as an oppressed minority that demands political autonomy.

Islamic leaders have used the approach during their current protest outside the prime minister's office. Shaykh Ra'id contacted several international groups and embassies and finally on August 3 won an audience with the Swiss ambassador to Israel, Gaspard Bodmer. Ra'id and his delegation told the ambassador of Israeli oppression of Arabs and their struggle for equal rights. He urged that Switzerland provide funds for the Arab community as well as lobby the European Community to intervene.

Bodmer has refused to be interviewed. An aide to the ambassador, sounding surprised that the newspaper knew of the meeting, said it was arranged "spontaneously" and would not provide details.

Rayan, the mayor of Kafr Bara, is perhaps the most outspoken of the Islamic leaders. He says the movement has always advocated that Arabs be given cultural autonomy. "Now, with this protest (in Jerusalem) and the way the government has been treating us, we think we are going to demand political autonomy," he says.

"There is a balance between expressing your feeling and observing your religion and disobeying the laws of the state," Rayan adds.

"As faith becomes stronger, the laws (of the state) become dry, and we have to choose."

To many officials, the threat appears ironic. It comes as the current government has given more to Israeli Arabs than any of its predecessors. Development funds to Arab municipalities increased nearly three-fold from 1992 to 1994 and in the current fiscal budget amount to NIS 338.4 million. Funds meant to help augment services leaped four-fold to NIS 202 million over the same period.

Arab leaders are proud of these accomplishments. "Over the last two years, we have changed the budget more than over the last decades," deputy health minister Nawaf Musaliha says. "We have the power to take this government or leave it."

But government officials say secular leaders like Musaliha are losing their influence and are playing catch-up with Islamic initiatives. A government memorandum to Rabin says the current Arab mayors' strike was initiated by Umm al-Fahm's Ra'id and the Islamic movement. Secular politicians such as Musaliha are taking up the call for the return of long-abandoned mosques. Arab officials responsible for education are beginning to echo Islamic demands within the government bureaucracy.

In Rahat, the new Labor-led municipality has maintained the devout Moslem character of public life initiated by its Islamic predecessor. Secular but anti-Zionist movements, such as the Sons of the Village, are looking for a way to cooperate with the fundamentalists.

It's enough to make some government officials yearn for the golden days of the late Knesset member Tawfiq Zayyad, a fiery Arab nationalist, who reigned as the chief spokesman for the Arab sector for more than 15 years. Only a few years ago, Zayyad and his HADASH Party were the leaders of the Arab sector, preaching and practicing Arab-Jewish cooperation while lobbying for Israeli recognition of the PLO.

"Once we saw RAKAH (the communist portion of HADASH) as the greatest threat, the biggest enemy," one official says. "Now, we see it as the most moderate element. They talk about coexistence."

The nightmare is that the fundamentalists will succeed in dominating the Arab sector and do well enough to decide which party will form the next coalition majority in the Knesset. One official says Rabin has been urged to consider an eventual coalition with the Likud to eliminate what they expect to be growing Arab pressure.

"What if this Arab party grows to 10 or 12 Knesset members and you can't make a government without it?" an official says. "And what if this party is dominated by the Islamic (fundamentalists)?"

Officials say there is little that can be done against the Islamic movement. Israel is a democracy and the officials say fundamentalists can do pretty much what they want as long as they honor the law—which is what the Islamic movement is doing. There is virtually no trace of fundamentalist-inspired terrorism by Israeli Moslems. Islamic publications take their inflammatory rhetoric to the brink of incitement, but rarely further.

"The government is asleep," says Yisre'eli, the Truman Institute researcher. "I've been saying to them, 'Open your eyes, open your ears.' They say they need the Israeli Arab vote. This is a tragic mistake."

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Yisre'eli does agree with officials—who refused to be named so that they would not be seen as clashing with the Islamic movement—that the government must avoid waging a campaign against fundamentalism. This means that Islamic leaders should not be held without trial or harassed by police. Instead, the aim must be to educate Israelis concerning the dangers of extremism.

For example, authorities should act quickly when an Islamic newspaper denies the Holocaust. "Take them to court," Yisre'eli says. "The public will wake up. There would be a trial and people in Israel would hear it. It would arouse public awareness here and people would at least know the situation."

The government, however, is fighting the fundamentalist movement on the ground. Officials have refused to allow Moslem activists to teach at Bedouin schools around Beersheba. Ibrahim al-Amur, an Islamic activist from Kusayfah, says he was denied tenure for three years on grounds that he wasn't qualified. He finally received tenure just before the Histadrut elections in May.

"I came with a five-year program from Ben-Gurion University," he says. "But there was a prejudice against me. What should I do? Cut off my beard? If you have religious-looking teachers in schools it's because they were granted tenure before they started growing a beard."

As far back as 1979, a secret government report obtained by THE JERUSALEM POST urged that Jewish communities be established in the Triangle district, which is dominated by Moslem Arabs. The report says that by the year 2000 at least 250,000 Jews will have to reside in the Triangle "to preserve the existing demographic balance."

Today, that recommendation is being implemented. One existing settlement, Qatzir, is being turned into a city. Another community, Tel 'Iron, is on the drawing board. The aim is to settle 100,000 Jews along the 1967 border.

Privately, official sources say the project is meant to prevent fundamentalist Umm al-Fahm from expanding from what is now a small city into an Arab metropolis that would dominate an area from 'Afula to Hadera. Some officials regard Ra'id, Umm al-Fahm's mayor, as the most effective and militant fundamentalist representative today.

Ra'id is aware of what officials have in mind. His inside knowledge of the Rabin government has amazed those close to the prime minister. Currently, Ra'id, through his role as deputy head of the Local Arab Council Heads, has sponsored a campaign by villages near Umm al-Fahm to overthrow their appointed regional council and replace it with an elected one. His aim to press for the reclamation of tens of thousands of dunams of land meant for the new Jewish cities.

While sitting in the protest tent across from the prime minister's office, Ra'id chooses to speak about justice. The Israeli media, he says, have reported rumors about the Islamic movement, quoted lies from the police and government and failed to get the real story of a minority racked by discrimination.

But eventually he comes around to what his associates say will be the main message—and what officials see as the main threat—of the Islamic movement in the months to come.

"All of us welcome the just peace," says Ra'id, referring to the Arab-Israeli negotiations. "But the person who doesn't make peace within his house doesn't have a chance to make peace with his neighbor."

More 'Directives' Issued on Capital Gains Tax

TA1908161494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] The Treasury has issued more directives concerning capital gains tax. It will apply to foreign investors as well, provided tax duplication is not involved. The tax will apply to bonds issued after 1 January 1995. Provident funds and advanced training funds invested in the stock market will be exempt. Individuals and nonprofit institutions with money in trustee funds will not be taxed but the sale of securities by the funds will be.

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King Speaks on Peace, Jerusalem, Syria

AU2208155194 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 22 Aug pp 122-125

[Excerpts] [DER SPIEGEL] Your Majesty, you have witnessed highs and lows, coup attempts and assassination attempts over the past 42 years of your reign. Do you view the signing of the Washington Declaration with Israel ending a 46-year state of war as the crowning achievement of your life?

[Husayn] No. In itself, the agreement does not mean an end to the sufferings of the people in the region. But we can say the declaration is the climax of developments that made Jordan and Israel decide to conclude peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] Was it a decision made by the king alone?

[Husayn] I have dreamed all my life of the chance to provide a better life for my people. Therefore, the overwhelming majority of Jordanians supported the change we reached in Washington. I pray that fate will enable me to join the list of peace pioneers in this region. Jordan should be a model for all to see how talents, unexplored for decades, can be exploited for peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] Nevertheless, recently you alarmed your parliamentarians with the statement that you are now going through the most dangerous stage of your life. Were you thinking of the fate of your grandfather, King 'Abdallah, who was assassinated at the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in 1951 in front of your eyes just because he had accepted Israel's existence?

[Husayn] I was not just thinking of myself but, above all, of the dangers that Jordan would be facing if peace were delayed even further. We Jordanians knew that we did not have a wide range of options from which we could freely pick one.

There were only two possibilities: Either continue in the old way—which would have meant more and more despair with an uncertain outcome, or daring to make the big leap and open a new page in the history book. This meant: Moving directly toward peace with Israel.

[DER SPIEGEL] Meanwhile you have shaken hands with Israeli head of government Rabin on Jordanian territory. Then you flew over Israeli territory in your private plane, escorted by Israeli jets....

[Husayn] ...I myself was piloting the plane when I flew over the holy places in Jerusalem....

[DER SPIEGEL] ...when will you pay an official visit to Israel, and when do you expect Israeli President Weizman as an official guest in Amman?

[Husayn] This can take place at any time.

[DER SPIEGEL] In a few days, weeks, or months?

[Husayn] In Washington we agreed that we should meet whenever this would give new stimuli to the peace process. We are not afraid of touching each other. I have a number of invitations to visit Israel. This is really just a matter of time.

[DER SPIEGEL] Has the peace process in the Middle East now made so much progress that even the worst terrorist attacks by militant opponents cannot stop it anymore?

[Husayn] Such dangers always exist. However, at least as regards Jordan, I know that the majority of the population support this peace process with Israel. There is no alternative to peace—that should be clear to everyone.

[DER SPIEGEL] Not all, as yet, are convinced about these constants. Syria, and consequently Lebanon, have not yet defined their tracks as Your Majesty did.

[Husayn] All the officials in the Middle East seriously seek real peace. I emphasize this, all are seeking real peace. In fact, there is no substitute to seeking a comprehensive peace that will comprise Israel and all its Arab neighbors. Every Arab-Israeli peace initiative, like the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, is only a brick in the structure of a comprehensive peace that will be attained later.

[DER SPIEGEL] It seems that not all the PLO leaders share your viewpoint. Faruq Qaddumi, 'Arafat's foreign minister, reiterated the need to destroy Israel.

[Husayn] 'Arafat and Qaddumi are free to say what they want. However, this does not change anything in the inevitability of the peace process.

[DER SPIEGEL] We do not want to imagine what could take place if one of the main active figures in the peace process is the target of an assassination that is masterminded by the enemies of the idea of a just peace between the Arab and Israel. Remember al-Sadat's fate?

[Husayn] Anyone who supports such decisions is threatened. But responsible politicians should work as their conscience dictates and for what serves their people. With regard to us, we are determined to conclude peace, and nothing will dissuade us from attaining this objective.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why are you focusing on the peace negotiations with the Israelis at this particular time?

[Husayn] No other Arab state gave to the Palestinians what Jordan gave to them. Others did not suffer as much as we suffered for the Palestinians' sake. Now that the Palestinians have concluded agreements with the Israelis, we consider it our duty to take care of our own interests.

[DER SPIEGEL] Negotiations with Israel began a few weeks ago. They, however, have not yielded much yet.

[Husayn] The general atmosphere of negotiations is not bad. The negotiations may take some time, and there are reasons for this. We do not just want to agree on defining the places where the border signs will be erected in the

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Jordan Rift Valley; we also want to turn this valley into a valley for peace. We want to implement joint ventures which have a future dimension. Moreover, we want to know the quantity of water to be allotted to each party and the possibilities of utilizing the best available water sources and to search for new sources, provided that this is done within a regional framework. This matter will take time. We will continue the negotiations until tangible successes are achieved. At that time, the Jordanian people must express their view and say whether they are satisfied with what has been achieved. Those who have an opposing view should express it, too. This is because peace which is dictated will not be a real peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will you sign a peace agreement with Israel this year?

[Husayn] I do not want to rule out this possibility. The talks, however, began a short time ago, so I do not know how much time they will take.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your agreement with Israel in Washington irritated the PLO leadership. 'Arafat was angered by the paragraph giving priority to Jordan regarding the holy places in Jerusalem in the negotiations on the city's final status. Isn't this anger justified?

[Husayn] Not at all. The special relationship between Jordan and the Hashemite family and Jerusalem and the holy places on the other dates back to the period prior to the declaration of the State of Israel and the establishment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. What took place in Washington only emphasized this fact, knowing that Jordan fought for Jerusalem and saved it in 1948.

[DER SPIEGEL] ... from the army of the newly-established State of Israel?

[Husayn] The disaster came with the 1967 war when Israel took over Jerusalem. We, however, continued to fulfill our duties toward the holy places. This was approved by the Arab summit held in Rabat in 1974.

[DER SPIEGEL] Still, Israel gave the PLO an affirmation, included in the joint declaration of principles, that it will negotiate only with the PLO on the final status of Jerusalem, which caused 'Arafat to feel humiliated.

[Husayn] There is a new element; that is, the quest to separate the protection of the holy Islamic, Christian, and Jewish sites and the political differences. If this quest succeeds, Jerusalem will indeed become the city of peace for all. However, this does not at all encroach on the negotiations over the future of the city as agreed between the Palestinian leadership and Israel.

[DER SPIEGEL] Perhaps Israel believes it has an interest in giving preferential treatment to one party over another, or vice versa?

[Husayn] Out of integrity, I say that Jordan took the initiative in this regard so issues do not get out of hand and become confused before reaching a solution acceptable to all parties. Thus, we must differentiate between two things—namely, religious matters on the one hand and Palestinian rights on the other—rights which we have always sought to achieve.

[DER SPIEGEL] Faysal al-Husayni, 'Arafat's expert on Jerusalem affairs, believes raising the issue of Jerusalem is the best way to destroy the peace process.

[Husayn] There is nothing that justifies any stirring of sentiments. I hope no one will try to hide his failure by raising the question of Jerusalem. Believe me, we do not want to compete with the Palestinians.

[DER SPIEGEL] Did you decide to push the peace process forward through a Jordanian initiative because of your concern that Israel and the PLO might conclude more agreements behind your back and at Jordan's expense?

[Husayn] The Palestinians really surprised us, although we had coordinated our policies at the 1991 Madrid peace conference. Despite this, we continued to support them. Now, we have the right to take care of our interests. We were continuously concerned about achieving coordination and joint action. However, this was always obstructed and was not up to our expectations. Therefore, we were prompted to take the initiative.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Arab slogans of unity have always been just a myth.

[Husayn] At least they never yielded what they promised.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you expect the emergence of an independent Palestinian state or do you prefer the establishment of Jordanian-Palestinian federation?

[Husayn] It is premature to say something certain about the relations between Jordan and the Palestinian areas we might see in the future. First of all, the Palestinians should regain their democratic rights. After that, we will see what could be done. Let time handle this issue. However, we will surely respect the Palestinians' independent decision regardless of its nature.

[DER SPIEGEL] And what will happen to the Palestinians, who live in your Kingdom?

[Husayn] Any member of the Jordanian community will retain his status until the day there is the possibility to decide on further remaining in the Jordanian state.

[DER SPIEGEL] Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians immigrated to Jordan after the six-day war in 1967. Will they stay in Jordan or will they be able to return to Palestine?

[Husayn] This will be determined by a four-member committee from Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and the Palestinians. It is the displaced people's right to be repatriated.

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[DER SPIEGEL] All the politicians involved in the peace process meet and hold discussions. Why hasn't Yasir 'Arafat come to Amman?

[Husayn] I do not know why. But we welcome him any time here.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your Majesty, there has been a de-facto peace on the Jordan for more than 20 years. During this time there were secret contacts between you and a number of Israeli politicians. Are you willing to reveal anything about that?

[Husayn] I had contact with many Israelis to sound out the opportunities for peace. However, years passed without the emergence of any tangible results. This changed only with the insight that a peace treaty is not the beginning of the peace process but its conclusion.

[DER SPIEGEL] There will be no lasting peace in the Middle East without Syria. Will Al-Asad move in the required direction, or will he stay in his isolation, as if he embodies pan-Arabism?

[Husayn] I believe President al-Asad seeks peace. Things will be moving because Syria and Lebanon will become parties in a comprehensive peace that will prevail in the Middle East.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is there coordination between you and Hafiz al-Asad?

[Husayn] Not at the moment. But, I believe the Jordanian initiative did not surprise President al-Asad much because we keep in contact. When I last met him, I explained to him that we will now resort to our own means as best as we can.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does this mean that Hafiz al-Asad supports the policy you adopt toward Israel?

[Husayn] In any case, he has not shown any opposition so far.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can you visualize the establishment of a common market between Israel and its Arab neighbors?

[Husayn] There are unlimited possibilities for improving the quality of life. Such a market will give us all more stability, security, and prosperity which will augur well for all the other crisis-ridden areas in the world.

[DER SPIEGEL] But, in this case, the Arabs might face an Israeli economic hegemony.

[Husayn] I do not think Jordan has anything to fear from the common market idea. Ours is a developed country and our people enjoy a high degree of culture. We can face any challenge with confidence and we have no reason to fear the future or Israel's hegemony.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is there still any justification at all for the Arab economic boycott against Israel?

[Husayn] The time of boycotts is over. But one must negotiate about that, because Israel, too, is boycotting our products. Of course, this must also stop.

[DER SPIEGEL] For four years, your country has been somewhat isolated from the West for your support of Saddam Husayn in the Gulf crisis. Has the time come to return Iraq to the Arab fold, or even to have it participate in the peace process with Israel? [Husayn] I cannot speak on behalf of others. However, I hope that Iraq, a very important element in this region, will resume normal life. I also hope the Iraqi people's suffering will end. As for peace in the Middle East, Iraq would be an important factor in it.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are you ready to mediate in order to return Iraq to the international community?

[Husayn] I was not asked to do so. Thus, I have made no contacts for this purpose.

[DER SPIEGEL] You are the longest ruling head of state in the Middle East. Can you predict when peace will overwhelm Israel and its Arab neighbors?

[Husayn] Both parties have realized that there is no alternative to a peace settlement. However, it is difficult to predict the time needed to translate this realization into fact.

[DER SPIEGEL] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher believes this can be achieved before 1996. Is he overoptimistic?

[Husayn] No, not at all. It depends on the speed with which the parties to peace will turn their hopes and good intentions into realities.

[DER SPIEGEL] [Former] Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat broke the hellish circle of the eternal Arab-Israeli conflict 17 years ago, thus risking his own life. Would it have not been better for the Arabs at that time to join al-Sadat's peace policy instead of wasting all these years in vain?

[Husayn] Many opportunities before and after al-Sadat's time were missed in the past. The region's tragedy was represented by the fact that its officials always paid attention to their narrow interests, so they did not give primary attention to the collective interest. Many people in Israel and the Arab World ran after illusions. This, however, is over now.

[DER SPIEGEL] You will visit Germany soon. How can Europe contribute to the Middle East peace process?

[Husayn] I hope that the relations of friendship with Europe will help us achieve our future vision about a Middle East in which peace will prevail.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your Majesty: You faced an acute health crisis. What are the objectives you set for yourself?

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[Husayn] Supporting the bases of democracy, pluralism, and human rights, and giving others an example in utilizing the fruits of peace in the interest of all. I hope that a new dawn will come.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your Majesty, thank you for this interview.

Palestinian-Jordanian Committees Conclude Meetings

Joint News Conference Reported

JN2208165094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] The meetings between the Jordanian side led by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, and the Palestinian side led by Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, were concluded at the Foreign Ministry today. During the meetings, the two sides discussed relations between Jordan and the PLO and issues of joint interest to both sides. More details in the following report by Kassab Samawi, our correspondent for political affairs:

[Begin recording] [Samawi] During the final expanded session which was held at the Foreign Ministry today between the Jordanian side led by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, and the Palestinian side led by Culture and Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the two sides reviewed the results of the meetings of the three political, economic, and administrative subcommittees which were formed during yesterday's meeting. The Jordanian side to yesterday's meeting was led by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. The two sides also reviewed the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track and the Palestinian-Israeli track. During this meeting, which was attended on the Jordanian side by a number of the ministers and senior officials, and on the Palestinian side by a number of ministers and officials in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in the self-rule areas, the two sides discussed several joint issues, particularly the economic issues, the means to promote trade exchange and transit trade between the two sides.

Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani and Palestinian Culture and Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh held a news conference at the end of the session. At the outset of the news conference, Dr. al-'Anani read the joint statement which included the most important results of these talks:

[Al-'Anani] Proceeding from the joint objectives and interests, the two sides agreed to form a joint committee which will meet every month to discuss all the joint issues of interest to both sides. This committee will form subcommittees specialized in specific issues to study them and submit recommendations to the joint committee. The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting during the first week of next month to discuss the joint issues and the issue of the displaced. Each side will present a working paper on each issue preparatory to reaching a joint paper representing both sides' stand.

[Samawi] Answering a question about the importance of the joint committee and its role at this stage:

[Al-'Anani] We have called it a joint committee to prove and emphasize that there are joint issues between the two sides on which coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides has become very necessary. This is because the dynamism of the peace process is proceeding very quickly and is affecting the two sides' stands. This necessitates constant discussion of the joint issues which are of interest to the people, and which facilitate the movement of people and dealings among themselves. This has become very clear through the talks which were held over the past two days. We believe that both sides have shown a high sense of interest and responsibility for the sake of reaching a permanent mechanism to discuss the issues, taking into consideration the consfant changes on the ground and the nature of the changes in our solutions and approaches to the issues until, eventually, things settle down and until we can agree on the final bases.

['Abd-Rabbuh] The meeting was businesslike. We discussed specific and tangible issues of interest to both parties on the political, economic, and administrative fronts. Perhaps the major difference between this meeting and previous ones is that the Palestinian Authority is now playing its role on the ground. This makes it possible to discuss matters in a practical manner, address issues directly, and to find direct and practical solutions to those issues and agree on them with more flexibility and efficiency than before. We have a packed agenda in front of us. We need to organize our economic relations and our joint role, especially within the framework of the negotiating process, since there are many joint and interconnected Jordanian-Palestinian issues.

[Samawi] On the most important political and economic issues on which the two sides agreed, the information minister said:

[Al-'Anani] There has been an agreement of views on all issues concerning the progress of the negotiations and the need to organize the relationship between the two sides. We have also agreed that there should be media coordination, so that our declared stands are a means for forging closer relations and closing any gaps through which others may infiltrate. The Palestinian side brought to the attention of the Jordanian side the intention to issue Palestinian passports. We believe that certain details must be studied in this regard. We have agreed on that. I do not want to go into details in this regard. Regarding the economic issue, the economic committee yesterday discussed a wide range of issues, including the developments affecting the economic relations between the two sides in light of the agreements that have been signed with other parties, especially Israel. Also, we have studied trade between the two sides. We agreed that trade between the two sides must reach the maximal possible point under the current circumstances, and that

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the $30-million deal covering Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territory is less than we aspire for. At any rate, we must agree on the adequate mechanism for ensuring the continued and easy flow of commodities within the confines in which both of us have to live. We have also discussed banking and monetary relations in light of what had been discussed in the past and in light of the new developments. I believe that practice on the ground and the institutionalized developments taking place on the Palestinian side will help competent agencies on both sides to agree on a mechanism and measures that will help maintain the stability of the Jordanian dinar and make the banking and monetary activity in the Palestinian territories as efficient as possible to achieve economic stability for both sides. [end recording]

'No Disagreement' on Jerusalem

JN2208190294 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Amman, 22 Aug (PETRA)—The two-day meetings between the Jordanian side led by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, and the Palestinian side led by Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, were concluded at the Foreign Ministry today. During the meetings, the two sides discussed relations between Jordan and the PLO and the various issues that concern both parties.

Following the meeting, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and information minister, read—during the joint news conference he held with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh—a joint press statement. Following is the text of the statement:

On the initiative of the Palestinian National Authority, a meeting was held between the Jordanian side led by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, and the Palestinian side led by Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali chaired the first meeting.

The three political, economic, and administrative committees, which stemmed from the meeting, discussed all issues that concern both sides in all fields. Both sides acquainted themselves with the stages of each side's negotiations with Israel.

Proceeding from the joint objectives and interests, the two sides agreed to form a joint committee which will meet every month to discuss all the joint issues of interest to both sides. This committee will form subcommittees specialized in specific issues to study them and submit recommendations to the joint committee.

The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting during the first week of next month to discuss the joint issues and the issue of the displaced. Each side will present a working paper on each issue preparatory to reaching a joint paper representing both sides' stand. [passage omitted]

Asked if the issue of Jerusalem was discussed, Palestinian Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that there is no disagreement between Jordan and Palestine vis-a-vis the issue of Jerusalem. Both parties proceed from the fact that the major task ahead is to end the occupation of Jerusalem—land, people, and holy places—because it is part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the issues between the two sides are so deep and large that we should not differ on administrative or media issues that can sometimes be exploited to create provocations or poison the atmosphere of our relations. He stressed that the issue of Jerusalem and ending its occupation is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian issue and objective, as well as a sublime Arab and Islamic issue. He said: The relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders is strong. We hope there will be meetings soon on all levels. [passage omitted]

Tension in Relations Viewed

JN2308112694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p 26

["Spotlight" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "Tension is There"]

[Text] There is tension in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. The prime minister's denial of this tension following the meeting of the two delegations last Sunday was, in my opinion, a diplomatic gesture and an expression of goodwill by [Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam] al-Majali, who is eager to preserve these relations.

I do not think that Jordanian and Palestinian public opinion has been convinced by these bilateral meetings or the committees' activities. These meetings and committees have become a habit that is hard to break. Nevertheless, the absence of serious coordination has been a prominent feature of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, especially in recent months. The absence of understanding and confidence has also been a prevalent feature in these relations.

Let us admit that those who are interested in aggravating these relations have succeeded in this to a large extent. Let us also admit that Israel is the one with real interests in maintaining this tension, stemming from its divide-and-rule policy, and with the aim of weakening the Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators.

It is regrettable that the committees and meetings between any party and Israel usually result in agreements that are accurately implemented and observed, while the Jordanian and Palestinian sides have so far failed to implement or abide by bilateral agreements or understandings.

It is tragic that Israel has become the bridge for the two sides' meetings. It is a dangerous course and will likely have many negative results for both sides during the

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coming years if this situation is not evaded with the highest degrees of responsibility and understanding and by giving priority to the national interests of the two peoples.

I do not want to make proposals to eliminate tension and make the coordination a reality on the ground because this is the task of the politicians, in addition to the fact that most observers do not know the real and hidden reasons that lead to this tension, although the two sides always declare their eagerness to maintain these distinguished relations and preserve coordination, and they say other things that do not convince anyone anymore.

We do not want more meetings or committees because the archives containing their past resolutions are already full. We only want the two sides to be as keen on implementing what they agree on together as they are to implement what they agree to with Israel. If they do this, the citizens on the two banks of the river will do the rest because they are one people. Tension is a political disease that is hated by all people because it has not helped in preserving Arab interests in times of war, and there is little doubt it will help in times of peace.

Confusion and anxiety are what best describes the people's mood. This is something abnormal and conflicts with the so-called atmosphere of peace.

Paper Lauds Results of Talks

JN2308095694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Main Task Is Ending Occupation"]

[Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian meetings concluded yesterday with an agreement on a mechanism for discussing joint issues that became pressing and urgent as a result of the preexisting strong unity between the two peoples, which is difficult for any political power to ignore, jump over, or sever. Issues may also become pressing and urgent as a result of the dynamism of the ongoing peace process, its speed, and the joint issues that the two sides should discuss and coordinate.

The two sides showed eagerness to activate a mechanism for discussing issues related to the developments of the peace process. They also showed a high sense of responsibility when they emphasized the importance of media coordination in order to avoid gaps, which others may try to penetrate and exploit. Hence, the final statement did not refer to the points of disagreement that were caused by the complications and progress of the peace process so that these issues can be discussed without sensation, which leads to tension in bilateral relations.

The Israeli media have recently tried to give prominence to Jordanian-Palestinian points of disagreement, and this has been observed by the ordinary Arab citizens in the West Bank and Jordan. This was an exposed attempt to change these points into disputed issues to draw attention from the main subject of ending the Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab territories, the foremost of which are our Jordanian and Palestinian territories.

The Israeli political and media maneuvers aimed at driving a wedge between the Arabs and sowing sedition among them have not been stopped by the peace process. This process provided Israel with more fuel for the fire of sedition it is trying to ignite. However, these maneuvers only deceive those who are not aware of the strength of the pan-Arab affiliation of Jordan and Palestine.

The main task of Jordan and Palestine continues to be ending the Israeli occupation. This task will continue to be a joint and central Jordanian-Palestinian cause until the liberation of the territories and the withdrawal of the last Israeli soldier from them.

Problem Seen With Saudi Treatment of Shipments

JN2308074994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Aug 94 p 1, 7

[Report by staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—As Jordan is heaving a sigh of relief that the four-year-old de facto blockade of the port of al-'Aqabah is ending this week, another serious problem has cropped up—self-assumed Saudi inspections of Jordan-bound cargo.

More than 500 containers destined for al-'Aqabah unloaded at the Saudi port of Jeddah have been stuck there—some for as long as two weeks—after Saudi authorities ordered all of them opened and inspected but left no clear instructions on their fate, shipping sources and businessmen said.

The containers, all of them destined for the Jordanian market and none containing any material that could be suspected as violating the international sanctions against Iraq, were unloaded from four ships for routine transshipment to al-'Aqabah through feeder vessels, they said.

They explained that it was the usual practice of many shipping lines to unload Jordan-bound containers at Jeddah for transshipment to al-'Aqabah so that the vessels did not have to face the difficulties posed by the offshore inspections carried out by the U.S.-led warships enforcing the international sanctions against Iraq.

In turn, Jordanian importers arranged for the transshipment of the containers aboard smaller vessels which could meet the guidelines set by the inspectors such as cargo accessibility and stowage requirements, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Saudi authorities used to pose problems, on and off for Jordan- bound shipments and Jordanian officials and shipping agents did not make an issue of such practices because they did not want to "do anything to undermine Saudi-Jordanian relations," said one source.

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That was a reference to the strain in ties dating back to the Gulf crisis sparked by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Repeated Jordanian efforts to explain the Kingdom's stand against a military solution to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and Jordan's quest to normalise relations with Saudi Arabia have not been very successful.

"However, 10 days ago, Jeddah port authorities suddenly ordered all concerned shipping agents at Jeddah to open all al-'Aqabah-bound containers at the port for inspections," said the source. "There were no written instructions, and inspections were carried out in haphazard manner.

"But no clear instructions were left after the inspections on whether the cargo was cleared for transshipment," said the source. "As such, shipping agents at Jeddah are at a loss over how to proceed now."

According to the sources, none of the shipments inspected by the Saudis was found to contain goods in violation of the sanctions against Iraq and therefore there is no justifiable reason for the non-issuance of clearance orders by the Jeddah port authorities.

The containers were unloaded at al-'Aqabah from four ships operated by six European lines, the source said.

The embassies of the concerned countries have been notified of the problem and "diplomatic wheels are turning," said the source.

Jordan has also sought American help to convince Saudi authorities to release the shipments, businessmen said. The precise status of American intervention, if any, was not immediately known, but two small feeder ships were cleared to proceed to Jeddah on Monday to pick up some of the containers, they said.

"Politics are at work again," said one businessman and importer. "We were happy that an end is in sight for the damaging offshore inspections by the American warships, and now the Saudi move has hit us."

Under an agreement signed by the Ports Corporation in July, the London-based Lloyds Register is expected to replace the high-sea inspections by a land-based verification regime at al-'Aqabah port as of noon Thursday.

An eight-member team of Lloyds Register surveyors will work in coordination with Jordanian ports and customs authorities to observe cargo at al-'Aqabah and report to the United Nations Sanctions Committee, Jordan will pay the cost of the surveying through a U.N. escrow account and claim the amount from the U.N. compensation Committee which is handling claims related to the Gulf crisis.

The Lloyds Register arrangement was agreed after nearly one year of discussions and four years of Jordanian complaints that the costly offshore "interdictions"—the American name for the practice of naval officers based on warships hailing and boarding civilian ships for a thorough scrutiny of cargo and documents—were causing the Kingdom heavy losses.

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Buwayz: Rabin's Withdrawal Statement 'Imprecise'

NC2208170994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements about plans for an Israeli withdrawal from the south, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said today that the Israeli proposal to withdraw from the south within nine months contains traps and is vague due to the circumstances in which it was made.

In a statement to AFP, Buwayz said Rabin's statement as published in the press is imprecise. He noted that Tel Aviv wants to put an end to the resistance and put the Lebanese Government to the test for a few months before starting negotiations on the withdrawal.

Minister Buwayz asked: From which area of the south will Israel withdraw first? What does it want to negotiate about? What is its concept of negotiations? Will the withdrawal be halted if there is a statement or stand that is hostile to Israel?

Buwayz on Christopher's Next Visit, Peace Process

NC1908171794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz visited Patriarch Sfayr in al-Diman today. He said that he expects U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to visit the region early next month and that this visit may lead to further developments.

On relations between al-Diman and B'abda [presidential palace], Minister Buwayz said that these relations need absolutely no mediation efforts. He arrived at al-Diman at 1300 and met with Patriarch Sfayr until 1500. During the meeting they had lunch and held a private meeting for more than an hour.

Before leaving al-Diman, Minister Buwayz made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] I visited His Beatitude Patriarch Sfayr to brief him on the current developments relating to the peace process, particularly after the recent efforts, and to discuss a number of domestic issues. No doubt this stage requires such consultations.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] Speaker Birri's visit and the Christian-Islamic dialogue?

[Buwayz] I occasionally visit his beatitude and this visit has nothing to do with others' visits, or Speaker Birri's visit. I welcome Speaker Birri's openness to all trends, views, and dialogue.

[Correspondent] Will the continuing Israeli acts of aggression impact on the peace process?

[Buwayz] There is nothing new. Like other Middle Eastern countries, Lebanon has been coming under political, diplomatic, economic, and security pressure. What is taking place in the south is connected to the peace process. I believe the unjustified developments in the south constitute psychological and moral pressure on Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Will Lebanon accept Morocco's invitation to the economic conference?

[Buwayz] This issue is under discussion. I believe that it is not necessary to attend this conference.

[Correspondent] You expect U.S. Secretary of State Christopher to return to the region in October, while others expect him to visit in September. Is there a definite date for the visit?

[Buwayz] I expect him to visit the region early next month before the UN session.

[Correspondent] Do you expect positive results from the visit?

[Buwayz] Certain developments have occurred in the peace process in various directions. I think that more developments may be expected, particularly because the United States has decided to play a basic and effective role.

[Correspondent] Was your visit to Patriarch Sfayr today intended to improve ties?

[Buwayz] As far as I know, I do not think that the atmosphere is strained between the patriarch and the president of the Republic. I do not think that this issue needs mediation. My visit is normal. I visited him when he was in Bkirki and it is only natural for me to visit him in al-Diman. [end recording]

Russian Envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk Visits

Holds News Conference

NC2008130694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Aug 94

[News conference by Russian envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk with unidentified correspondents after his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the presidential palace in B'abda on 20 August—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] [Passage indistinct] in your meeting with his excellency the president?

[Posuvalyuk] First, I express my deep gratitude to his excellency the president for granting me this meeting, which was held in a very cordial atmosphere, thus reflecting the spirit of current Russian-Lebanese relations. I brought him a message from President Boris Yeltsin dealing with the current stage in the peace process and the Russian leadership's assessment of what should be done in the coming days on all the tracks, including the main Syrian track, the Lebanese, and the

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other tracks to ensure a comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The second part of the message deals with bilateral relations and the Russian leadership's readiness to bolster them. We are in fact preparing the next steps for bolstering these ties with Lebanon. We believe that our bilateral ties now are good. Maybe not all the correspondents know that Russia is Lebanon's fourth largest foreign trade partner, and this shows major progress.

[Correspondent] What are the main obstacles impeding the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Posuvalyuk] I believe that progress in the Syrian-Israeli track depends mainly on the political will of both sides.

[Correspondent] What is Russia's stance on the siege of Yuhmur and Arnun?

[Posuvalyuk] Without going into details, we regret these incidents and call for putting an end to them to create a new psychological and political climate and prepare the way for the negotiations. On this occasion and while answering the question, I like to stress that Russia stands firmly and unambiguously in support of Resolution 425. Russia has always supported Lebanon's sovereignty and its territorial integrity. This is a constant Russian stance.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] or is there coordination between the Russians and the [words indistinct]?

[Posuvalyuk] Some foreign media organs are trying to comment on the activities of the U.S. and Russian sponsors saying that they are in confrontation or comparing them. I like to stress that there is daily coordination between the U.S. and Russian sponsors at the levels of the two countries' presidents and foreign ministers. We as experts have daily contacts and coordinate our actions. I hope that you will be assured that there is no competition in these ties. We and the Americans are using different ways to reach a common objective, namely the comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Correspondent] You said yesterday that the Russians and the Americans use different ways. What is the difference?

[Posuvalyuk] For example, the frequency of visits. Our visits may not be so numerous. Mr. Kozyrev visited the Middle East region twice. He might not have visited all the countries but he toured the region twice, despite his many preoccupations, especially with problems related to Russia's ties with the independent states of the former Soviet Union, the Yugoslavia problem, and other issues. He visited this region twice. We are making contacts calmly and sometimes without media coverage. Maybe this is the fault of some of the media organs. I remember when high-level Russian envoys visited the Middle East in the spring, some media organs, such as the Western ones for example, did not show much interest in them. At times, a country's policy is viewed on the basis of how much coverage the media gives it. This is not right. Politics exists on its own and is independent of the media, even though there is a relationship between the two. We are interested in seeing more comprehensive coverage of Russian policy.

[Correspondent] Do you expect concrete progress before the end of this year?

[Posuvalyuk] I speculate that there will be major progress on all the tracks.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] the comprehensive solution in the region?

[Posuvalyuk] I believe that there is now a great distance between us and the moment when all the issues will be resolved. Look, for example, at the Palestinian-Israeli track. Major and fundamental agreements have been concluded but their implementation will take a long time. Important agreements have been concluded on the Jordanian track but their implementation needs time. The same applies to the Lebanese and Syrian tracks.

[Correspondent] Are you carrying a reply from President al- Hirawi?

[Posuvalyuk] Yes. Thank you very much.

Gives Yeltsin Message to al-Hirawi

NC2008085894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Aug 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received a message dealing with Middle East developments from Russian President Boris Yeltin this morning. Special Russian envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk delivered the message. The envoy said that his visit to Lebanon concerns the peace process developments and bilateral relations.

Meets With Buwayz

NC2008172794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Russian envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk met with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Ballunah today. The meeting was attended by Russian Ambassador Ilichev, Mr. (Gorkin), and Amin Khuri, adviser to Minister Buwayz. The meeting lasted for 90 minutes and the discussion dealt with the security of the Lebanese in the Russian Federation. In this regard, Minister Buwayz mentioned the murder of two Lebanese merchants near Moscow. The discussion also dealt with ways to improve bilateral relations, particularly economic ties, and the peace process, both on the bilateral and multilateral tracks. The Russian envoy hoped Lebanon would regain its former status as one of the major centers in the Middle East. He also hoped that the legal agreements for enhancing bilateral relations would be concluded. [passage omitted]

For his part, Minister Buwayz stressed that a comprehensive solution is the only way to reach a real peace, adding that isolation does not serve the purpose of

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establishing a real peace. He noted that Russia realizes that peace needs to be based on foundations that satisfy the demands of the region's peoples. He added:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] The Russian Federation's ability to understand Middle East affairs qualifies it to truly play this major role, with all the psychological, historical, and even philosophical aspects involved. From this premise, we heard the argument of the Russian envoy, who proved to be very much aware of the background of the outstanding regional problems. Our views on the method of approaching the negotiations were identical. Russia showed an understanding of Lebanon's cautious, yet serious, approach to the negotiations so that a real, comprehensive, deep-rooted, and frank peace can one day be established, instead of the ceremonial peace that still needs many clarifications which we all read and hear about. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Hirawi Views Peace With Israel, Yuhmur Siege

NC2308114494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stated that the competent authorities have been instructed to open a new road to the town of Yuhmur. During a reception for the Cultural Council of South Lebanon led by Deputy Habib Sadiq, he said the government's contacts have resulted in an agreement to lift the siege of Yuhmur within the next two days. He said that Lebanon was apprised of this decision last night by the UN forces commander, who visited Beirut to convey the message.

President al-Hirawi stressed that the suffering of south Lebanon's inhabitants is our constant concern and that we follow it with every available means to alleviate our kinfolk's suffering. He said that Lebanon will stand firm on Security Council Resolution 425 and will not budge. He stressed that the report on an Israeli proposal to withdraw from the south is untrue and that Lebanon has received no such proposal. He noted that the government has pledged that no bullet will be fired from Lebanon toward Israel after it has withdrawn to the international border. But Lebanon, he said, will not sign a separate peace agreement.

Birri Calls U.S. Policy on Yuhmur 'Unacceptable'

NC2208133994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has told the inhabitants of Yuhmur who are staging a sit-in at the chamber that Yuhmur is not the only one under siege but that the south, western al-Biqa', and all Lebanon is under siege. He said that the chamber and the government have held intensive contacts to lift the siege but to no avail so far. Speaker Birri then said:

[Begin Birri recording] You know that Yuhmur and Arnun are not the only ones under siege. The south, western al-Biqa', and even all Lebanon is under siege. I tell you frankly that the state's departments, from the Health Ministry to the South Council, have done their duties. But the truth is that this is a major political issue. The siege has to be lifted. Yuhmur and Arnun should return to the lap of the homeland. Very frankly, the Chamber of Deputies and the government have held intensive contacts but these have not led to any real result.

It is probably my national duty to tell you that his excellency the U.S. ambassador told us three days ago that, regrettably, the United States could not do anything about the Yuhmur and Arnun issue. This is of course unacceptable. We are all aware of the U.S. influence on the United Nations and the Israelis. No matter how much they try to evade their international responsibility, the real peace sponsor has to play its role toward these two towns. The Liberation Bloc in the Chamber of Deputies is living this issue minute by minute and is honored to meet you. We will not be content with this. We met today and decided to establish an emergency committee under colleague Joseph Mughayzil to follow up this issue politically so that we can see you again in Yuhmur and Arnun. Thank you. [end recording]

Israeli Planes Fired On; Israeli Official Comments

NC2308051394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli combat aircraft overflew Ba'labakk at a high altitude last night. Security sources said the Israeli planes flew over Lebanon's western mountain ridge to reach Ba'labakk. The sources said that the Syrian forces and Hizballah used antiaircraft fire against the overflying planes and that Hizballah used mobile antiaircraft batteries.

In the south, Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties at a low altitude and conducted mock raids over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. These flights were accompanied by an Israeli artillery bombardment of Jabal al-Dahr, 'Ayn al-Tinah, Maydun, Qilya, Dallafah, Jabal al-Rafi', Nab' al-Tasah, Jabal Safi, Mlita, and al-Luwayzah.

(Viora Inbar), Israeli liaison officer with the Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army], has threatened to strike at Hizballah and destroy its capabilities. At a news conference he held at the Lahd forces headquarters in Marj 'Uyun [date not further specified], (Inbar) said: We will continue to pursue Hizballah members and will strike at them to destroy their capabilities.

As he put it, Israel is willing to devote resources and effort to fighting the enemies of peace. He announced that the Israeli Army will soon find a suitable method to do that.

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Birri: U.S. Puts Israel 'Above International Law'

NC2108202794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Text] Nabih Birri, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, has said that the United States, by placing Israel above international law and by preventing the convocation of a UN Security Council session requested by Lebanon, is undermining the very essence of the United Nations.

Our country needs three things: national unity, alliance and coordination with Syria, and resistance, Birri said. Free dialogue, he added, is a constant feature of our life and a policy we plan to pursue in order to preserve our unity as a nation and a country.

Scoffing at Israel's claims that al-Biqa' is a haven for terrorists, Birri said that al-Biqa' is a place for freedom and resistance against occupation.

Birri Criticizes Government Reconstruction Delays

NC2208082994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The politically distracted government continues to be a ripe target for criticism despite the prime minister's attempts to polish up its image and increase its popularity. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's private meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri last Saturday has not helped him to escape the speaker's barbs.

In a speech he delivered during a visit to al-Hirmil yesterday, Birri criticized al-Hariri's policies and methods. The Chamber of Deputies speaker affirmed that living conditions in the country are no longer tolerable and cannot wait much longer for a remedy.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Imam al-Sadr Secondary School in al-Hirmil, Birri said that the citizens are waiting for the implementation of the Year 2000 Development and Reconstruction Plan, as they have been promised.

He said the Government has already been given sufficient time to begin the rebuilding projects. He acknowledged that some projects have begun and must continue.

He said: We wonder, however, why work has not begun elsewhere, specifically the building of the new freeways. The Chamber of Deputies has acted promptly to expedite the bills pertaining to all development and reconstruction plans. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Official Calls For 'Opposition Front'

NC2208193494 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The Downtown Beirut Claimants Alliance [tajammu' ashab al-huquq fi wasat bayrut] today called on the legislative power to apply Law 117/91 and on the executive power to restore its role in reconstruction which the real estate company Solidaire has usurped. The Alliance called on the judiciary power to resolve the unsettled disputes and instate the rights of downtown Beirut claimants. This came at a news conference the Alliance held at the Editors' Association. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Party Secretary General Lawyer Karim Paqraduni today chaired a meeting of the Phalangist Political Bureau and Central Council. During that meeting, Paqraduni said that Solidaire is the economic flip side of settlement [of Palestinians in Lebanon] and settlement is the political flip side of Solidaire. Paqraduni called for the formation of a national opposition front, with members representing various communities, parties, and public figures, to present an alternative to al-Hariri's government and revive the spirit and letter of the al-Ta'if agreement. [passage omitted]

Al-Murr: Citizens Oppose Resettlement of Palestinians

NC2008120994 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister Engineer Michel al-Murr has affirmed that he rejects the return of the Palestinian refugee camps to al-Dubayyah, Tal Za'tar, or other areas in al-Matn. He said: We support the return of the Palestinians to Palestine. He affirmed that the Lebanese are opposed to the resettlement of Palestinians in general.

In an interview with RFL on the program "Official Talk," he said that the government has no knowledge about a project to resettle the Palestinians in Iqlim al-Kharrub. If the government had any such knowledge, he said: I would discuss it with you outright.

On Minister Junblatt's excesses against the spiritual headquarters, particularly against Bkirki, al-Murr said: Every person in Lebanon has freedom of opinion and political action. He expressed his belief that if Junblatt has formed any stances, they stem from certain political trends. [passage omitted]

Land Bought To House Palestinian Refugees

NC2008174694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Aug 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry for Refugee Affairs has stated that the Refugees Fund bought the appropriate land to build suitable homes for the Palestinian refugees. The contract for the purchase of this land was signed today.

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'Carlos' Seen Sparking Western 'Onslaught'

NC2308081494 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Unattributed commentary from the "Spotlight on Events" program: "Carlos and the Continuing Onslaught"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be with you.

This is not an expression of sorrow for Carlos or a censuring of what Sudan sees as an exercise in its sovereignty. The issue goes beyond Carlos and beyond Sudan's attempt to whitewash its image before the West, specifically the United States and France.

If Sudan, an Islamic Arab stronghold, wishes to ease its predicament in such a way, Washington and Paris will certainly not be easily satisfied; they will want more. These two Western capitals' problem with Sudan is not that it is a terrorist haven as they allege, but Sudan's Islamic policy, its defense of particular firm principles, and its wish to provide an outlet for the Arab and Islamic liberation movement.

Carlos is not the only individual the West is asking Khartoum to hand over. The West wants the head of every Arab and Islamic liberation movement and resistance group. Washington and Paris regard all forms of resistance to colonialism and occupation as terrorism, which must be confronted and destroyed.

In connection with the Carlos affair one thing is clear. Sudan will not polish its image, because Washington and Paris will only ask for more. The Carlos affair will open the door to an escalated onslaught on the Arab and Islamic world.

Look how quickly Paris started rumors that Carlos had links with senior Syrian officials, that he carried out operations for them, and that Syria was involved in bombings on French territory in the early eighties. Carlos might confess to more, including that the Syrians took part in the Ottoman Empire's wars against France in previous centuries. The important thing is to obtain any slender lead that will secure a conviction and justify an escalated onslaught.

What has Khartoum done? Will the price of its exoneration in Western eyes take the form of diverting the accusations toward another Arab country?

We want to protect Sudan just as we want to protect Syria, Libya, Iraq, Iran, and any other country subject to the onslaughts of global arrogance. We realize that the hostile onslaught has only one objective: To humiliate our nation and ruin its capabilities.

Carlos was forgotten amid rapidly changing events, the closing of the Cold War dossier, and the demarcation of the new world order. Suddenly the world and colonialist crusader France remembered him. Judge Bruguiere, the hero of French justice, began reopening files in a blatant act of deception. The world knows that the affair is not one of court justice, but a political plot by which France tries to emulate Washington and Tel Aviv.

Regardless of their differences, they all want to launch an onslaught against the Arab and Islamic region. The victim is down so why should there not be as many executioners as possible?

This is how we see the Carlos affair.

What choice has Sudan made? When? What promises have been made?

The French judge's justice is illustrated by his digging up all the files, including those that are decades old. The important thing is that a file should have a link, even a tenuous one, with an Arab or Muslim name or an Arab or Muslim state. Other files can be burned or shredded.

Arab and Muslim files are dug up because only the Arabs and Muslims are terrorist criminals. The world must resolve to punish them all: Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Sudan, even after Carlos' handover. And so on in a neverending story.

You are an Arab therefore you are condemned because it will necessarily be proved that you have links with the Venezuelan Carlos. You are Muslim therefore you are a terrorist because you must have had some connection with the bombing of the Jewish sect's headquarters in Buenos Aires.

Between this and that the question arises. Will this persistent targeting and challenging cause the remnants of the Arab-Muslim nation to rise and confront the calumny, grudges, and flagrant assaults on our dignity, liberty, and future?

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New U.S. Plan on Peace Talks Expected

JN2108121294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Muhammad Shuqayr in Beirut]

[Text] A prominent ministerial source expects U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to return to the region in September with an integrated plan "through which he will try to reach a minimum degree of understanding between Syria and Israel that would enable him to repeat his shuttles in the remaining few months of this year in the hope of crowning them with an agreement on issues that still constitute the bone of contention between Damascus and Israel."

The source told AL-HAYAH that in his latest talks with Christopher, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad asked if Washington could draft a preliminary plan transcending the broad headlines of a comprehensive peace in the region to focus on substantive issues like withdrawal, security, and peace, including the normalization of relations.

The source revealed that the Syrian leadership expressed satisfaction with the latest round of talks between Christopher and President al-Asad in the presence of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', attributing this to the fact that Christopher displayed understanding of the Syrian viewpoint that focuses on the issue of withdrawal as a condition for moving on to the dossiers of security and normalization.

The source quoted a Syrian official as saying that Damascus has noted a gradual shift in Washington's way of dealing with the Syrian viewpoint and that Christopher talked to President al-Asad in a new spirit and a positive tone, which prompted him to ask for an integrated U.S. plan that transcends the general principles and tackles the crux of the problem between Lebanon and Syria on the one hand, and Israel on the other. The official added that there is no need to repeat the same headlines on which comprehensive peace will be established so long as the Madrid formula expressly indicated the real intentions of the cosponsors of the peace conference, the United States and Russia.

The official confirmed that Christopher did not take a negative stance toward al-Asad's proposal "and this makes us optimistic that his next tour in the region will mark the beginning of a new manner of dealing with the disputed issues between Syria and Israel."

The ministerial source noted that "speculation that the end of 1994 will see the beginning of palpable progress on the Syrian-Israeli track stems from the fact that Damascus expects that Secretary Christopher will bring with him this time a U.S. plan that he will try to sell to the two disputing parties."

He did not rule out a U.S. conciliatory formula combining the Syrian and Israeli attitudes and based on the step-by-step principle and the need to realize concurrence between the terms set by the two countries. This formula will also take into account the need to make withdrawal from the Golan Heights go hand in hand with the normalization of relations and the termination of the state of war by addressing the question of armament and resolving the issue of security arrangements.

The source said: "Tel Aviv has unofficially agreed to reduce the duration of withdrawal from the Golan from seven to four years. Washington is currently working hard to persuade Tel Aviv to announce a clear stand on withdrawal. This is what Secretary Christopher has focused on and is focusing on." The source noted: "The mere agreement of Tel Aviv to reduce the Golan pullout duration means that the U.S. Administration, through its intermediary role in the negotiations between the two countries, can convince Israel of the need to reduce it to less than four years."

The source said: "The Syrian leadership prefers not to be overoptimistic and not to act through its mass media as if the negotiations are proceeding toward an agreement on a comprehensive solution, attributing this to the existence of continuing outstanding and basic issues, without playing down the positive U.S. stand or turning a blind eye to what has happened to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who gave everything with respect to normalization without obtaining anything to consolidate his stand in the Palestinian arena in light of the existence of outstanding issues between the two sides."

He noted the importance of what has been said about a U.S. intention to find a complex formula that accommodates Syrian priorities, which are based on withdrawal first and then security and peace, and the Israeli priorities, which are based on peace first, and then security and withdrawal. The source said: "In case this formula is proposed, it will call for simultaneous withdrawal and normalization within a period that ends by the end of 1996. In case that arrangement proves inapplicable, Syria will not mind extending that period, provided that it does not go beyond the end of 1997.

In this regard, a Western diplomatic source told AL-HAYAH that "in its discussions with Christopher, Damascus is looking for an understanding on the file of the region and on Syria's future role. This requires discussing the future of the situation in Iraq to learn about the fate of the current regime, especially in light of the various stories about attempts to use the Iraqi regime against Syria."

The source said: "Syria insists on knowing the fate of the Iraqi regime. The Syrian leadership wants to know its regional position as of now and the role that it will be able to play. From Syria's viewpoint, the issue is one of not reaching an agreement that fails to consider all of Syria's fears."

The diplomatic source believes the U.S.-Syrian talks "deal not only with the Syrian-Israeli conflict and

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signing an agreement, but also with the post-agreement era. In this regard, the talks focus on the nature of the Syrian role in Lebanon. In principle, this role enjoys international recognition. The only difference is about the volume of this role. The talks also deal with Damascus' position in the new economic cycle in the region and the fate of the Iraqi regime."

Concluding, the source said: "Whoever knows the Syrian leadership well must assume that all these sensitive issues, in addition to the Western and specifically the U.S. position on Tehran, are not absent from the mind of President al-Asad. Those who are familiar with Iranian affairs support the view that the current regime will not lead any front to topple the peace talks and that there is a serious chance of containing it."

Radio Views Baraq's Golan Remarks, Israeli Policy

JN1908151594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] When Israeli officials stress their interest in keeping the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and their unwillingness to withdraw from them or from certain Syrian occupied territories, this is tantamount to saying that they have no desire for peace. These officials fully realize that there can be no regional peace nor even progress on the Syrian track without a clear, explicit Israeli announcement about withdrawal from the Golan. They know that Syria will not bargain over a single iota of its national soil, and that the primary condition for the establishment of peace is full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi. We are saying this since Israeli officials have recently made a number of contradictory statements about the Golan and the need to maintain the Israeli occupation of this Syrian Arab territory, claiming that it is strategically important for the security of Israel.

After statements by Rabin, Peres, Beilin, other government officials, and even by the opposition parties, on this issue, Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said in Washington that Israel should remain on the Golan even after peace is eventually established with Syria. This is not a lone statement, but one in a long series of similar Israeli statements. However, when Rabin, the head of the authority in Israel, blesses Baraq's statements, he is giving a clear, albeit not new, indication of the true Israeli intentions toward the peacemaking process. Yitzhaq Rabin said that he allowed Baraq to brief U.S. Army commanders on this position, because this is the position that has been adopted by the Israeli Army for purely military considerations, as Rabin put it.

Although the Israeli prime minister did not explicitly say that this is the position of the Israeli Government, to allow General Baraq to raise this view in Washington should be considered an indication of the fact that Rabin, who is himself a general and defense minister, also adopts the orientation, positions, and theories of the Israel military, which cannot be separated from the political institutions. Hence, Baraq's statements cannot be viewed as merely a reflection of a military viewpoint, but a reflection of the viewpoint of the Israeli Government. Baraq is the chief of staff and, militarily, Rabin's right hand man. In all of his statements, Israeli Prime Minister Rabin never made a single reference to Israeli readiness to withdraw from the Golan, which also supports the idea that Baraq was reflecting the Israeli viewpoint and expressing the government's opinion. At best, he talked about withdrawal in the Golan, rather than from the Golan, in return for full peace, open borders, and diplomatic, economic, tourist, and other relations.

Such Israeli statements cannot serve the peacemaking process. Rather, they throw obstacles in the way and obstruct U.S. and international efforts to establish a just, comprehensive peace. A just, comprehensive peace cannot be realized without a clear Israeli commitment to the bases of this peace, particularly full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. So far, nothing gives the impression that Israel is prepared for such a peace. If matters were otherwise, Israeli officials would have not repeatedly have the made the point that they refuse to give up the territory that they occupied by force and aggression. When Israel gives up this style and statements, which contradict the bases of the peace process, then one can talk about progress in this process. Otherwise, Israel would be deliberately working to thwart international efforts and prevent the achievement of peace in the region.

Press Examines Statements

JN2008094094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Aug 94

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Syria Adheres To Its Principled Stands," TISHRIN stresses that Israeli officials have, apparently, not learned any lessons from the Washington talks and the positions displayed by Syria. Syria does not relinquish Arab territory or an Arab rights, let alone its own territory and that of fraternal Lebanon.

TISHIRN says: Out of a genuine belief in peace, Syria has advocated and continues to advocate a just and honorable solution to the crisis in the region which would end the Israeli occupation and preserve the Arabs' rights and dignity. The Israelis, who were intoxicated by the concessions made by the PLO leadership and by the fact that its police are pursuing the national resistance forces, are eager to see a similar situation on the other fronts in order to entrench their occupation and expansionist schemes. But, undoubtedly, there is an awareness. The Israelis will discover that they have not made peace but placed time bombs in the occupied territories, and

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that their continued evasion of full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon may end up destroying the entire peace process.

The paper stresses that the Palestinian resistance will continue as long as the Israeli occupation remains. If Israel, with all its military and oppressive might, has failed to crush the intifadah, then instigating 'Arafat against it will only strengthen it. Furthermore, the statements by the Israeli officials that reject full withdrawal from the Golan Heights will only strengthen Syria's and Lebanon's adherence to full Israeli withdrawal and rejection of the separate deals and partial settlements.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Syria knows very well that a Middle East peace is impossible without its effective participation and that Israel's gains on the other fronts are likely to collapse at the proper time. The kind of peace that can survive and be entrenched in the region must be just and comprehensive and based on a host of basic conditions, particularly Israeli withdrawal and the return of Arab rights.

In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH discusses the Middle East peace process against the backdrop of statements by Israeli officials on the issue of withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The paper says: The Israeli chief of staff, for example, announced that Israel must remain on the Golan Heights even after peace is made. The foreign minister, the tourism minister, and others made similar statements, which, although they were milder and less arrogant, fall in the same course; that is, they all want their kind of peace only, they want peace and land together, which is an impossible equation.

AL-THAWRAH says: If any of these people think Syria will relinquish, bargain, or retreat from its firm position, which has become a basic principle in the Syria policy, then they are sick with illusions.

The paper says: Christopher was informed more than once of this specific Syrian position. On every occasion, he showed understanding of the soundness and justness of our position and, consequently, of the background of the Israeli intransigence. He also showed understanding of the fact that Israel dictates terms which it knows will be rejected by Syria; terms of withdrawal, its timeframe, and conditions. Syria rejects any conditions on these principles.

AL-THAWRAH says: If, by his statement, the Israeli chief of staff means a specific security concept or specific security considerations, then it must be understood that Israel has exercised aggression scores of times against Arab territory since its establishment. It expanded into Arab territories to an area six times the area allocated to it by the UN partition resolution.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the Golan Heights are not subject of bargaining or division. The same applies to southern Lebanon and all the occupied territories. Any arrangements which the peace process requires must be very balanced and equitable. Otherwise, peace cannot survive. Peace can be comprehensive if this concept is understood in full. Any other concept will keep the region under the threat of security disturbances and uncalculated, unpredictable risks.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Security cannot always be employed in favor of Israel. But it can be, and must be employed in favor of the Arabs and in favor of the just and comprehensive peace. Syria is not in a hurry and will only accept the kind of peace that can guarantee the Arabs' rights and dignity, as the leader of the nation, Hafiz al-Asad, has said.

Efforts To Reach Agreement With Israel Viewed

NC2008144194 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Aug 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by Rabi' Shahin]

[Text] According to some diplomatic reports, the Zionist entity has obtained full information about the Syrian Golan Heights from U.S. satellites. The reports said the U.S. satellites provided the Zionist entity with complete information and files about all strategic areas in the Golan.

The U.S. Defense Department expressed willingness to cooperate with the Zionist entity and meet its demands in this regard.

The reports said Israel presented a request to Washington expressing interest in further information about the Syrian Golan Heights, claiming that this comes in the context of an Israeli inclination to withdraw from the Golan prior to signing a peace treaty with Syria.

The reports point out that the Zionist move is part of security studies being held to realize Zionist objectives and ambitions and make gains in the negotiations with the Syrians.

Meanwhile, AL-SHA'B has learned that the U.S. Administration conveyed a warning to Damascus urging that this year not draw to a close without reaching an agreement with the Zionist entity.

Washington claimed that if the Zionist Likud Party comes to power, negotiations between Israel and Syria will become more difficult. It also claimed that the current government in Israel is showing enough flexibility toward peace with the Arabs and a readiness to withdraw from the Golan.

Informed diplomatic sources revealed that the U.S. Administration has prepared a declaration of principles for achieving peace between Damascus and Tel Aviv.

The sources said the draft, in its main features, schedules the withdrawal over several phases within a time frame of five years. It calls for keeping the Golan a demilitarized area except for a security force with limited arms, deploying American observers and troops as part of an

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international force between the two sides, and normalizing all forms of relations in parallel with the implementation of the withdrawal stages.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's recent visit to Alexandria was for consultation with the Egyptian officials over these proposals before responding to them and before the return of the U.S. secretary of state to the region to continue his tours and pressures to reach this agreement.

Need for Security for All Parties Seen

JN2208152994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Up to now, Israeli officials' statements and acts have proved that they are not prepared to meet the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace and that all they want is to keep the Arab territories they have occupied by force and aggression. At the same time, they want to reap the fruits of peace such as multifaceted relations and open borders. Israel, together with the whole world, knows that this is impossible. Syria did not enter the peace process just to relinquish its territories and rights but to restore justice and establish just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the relevant UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. While Syria stresses its concern for such a peace, responds to international efforts, and meets the requirements of peace, Israel gives no consideration to these requirements. On the contrary, it has been creating problems, placing obstacles to peace, and avoiding the principles of the peace process.

By announcing the existence of serious problems between Syria and Israel, U.S. President Bill Clinton means that he, as well as the international community, knows that Syria is not responsible for the these problems, since Israel announces on every occasion its refusal to abandon the occupied Syrian Golan Heights even if peace is established with Syria in the future. Without doubt, neither peace nor progress in talks on the Syrian track is possible without a clear, frank Israeli declaration of its readiness to withdraw from the Golan as the only condition for serious work to establish peace. What applies to the Golan also applies to southern Lebanon and the Western al-Biqa' in accordance with Resolution 425. We do not believe that this demand falls outside the framework of the international resolutions. Rather, it is based on these resolutions, which stress the inadmissibility of acquisition of territories by force and urge Israel to carry out a total withdrawal from these territories.

By stressing the need to retain large parts of Syrian territories in the Golan under the pretext of preserving its security, Israel not only ignores UN resolutions and the foundations of the peace process, but also departs from logic and all the international laws and norms. If this Israeli logic had prevailed in the international arena, there would have been no safe borders throughout the world, and each state would have given itself the right to occupy the territories of other states to protect its borders and ensure its security. Israeli officials call day and night for security arrangements and stress the need to retain parts of the Syrian Golan in order to preserve Israel's security. This cannot be accepted by any sane person in the world. It is Israel that has always committed aggression and that owns a military arsenal which the Americans themselves said is stronger than all the Arab military arsenals put together. Moreover, Israel is still occupying Arab territories.

Therefore, the Arabs need security arrangements more than Israel, and a just and comprehensive peace is the only way to guarantee security for everybody, as well as stability in the region. The first step toward that peace, that stability, and that security lies in the total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. If such security arrangements are necessary, they should cover all parties rather than this or that party. These are the foundations of the desired peace. Israel knows this well and also knows that without such specifications, peace will be incomplete and distorted. Moreover, the entire world knows that it is impossible to establish just and comprehensive peace without these foundations.

Press Rejects 'Secret Bargaining' With Israel

JN2308072294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Seriousness of Our Position," AL-THAWRAH says: Syria's adherence to the principles and conditions of a just and comprehensive peace, and its insistence on full implementation of Security Council resolutions in order to render the peace process successful, are based on a sincere desire to provide a proper atmosphere for real and strong peace that secures the rights of all parties.

The newspaper adds: The whole world has seen how serious Syria is in its efforts to realize just and comprehensive peace and the efforts it is making to advance the peace process.

The newspaper emphasizes that Syria's desire to have peace does not mean that it is prepared to indulge in secret bargaining over any national or pan-Arab right. This desire will never make it relinquish an inch of the Golan or south Lebanon. It is also impossible for this desire to lead it to believe in the illusions of separate solutions and settlements, which Israel is trying to market to serve its objectives and greed.

The newspaper emphasizes that Syria wants to act openly, in daylight, and in accordance with the formulas and principles that have been decided in UN resolutions and by international legitimacy because the facts will not be hidden from the Arab masses, who have confidence in

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Syria and who believe in its decisive role in confronting any plan that leads to concessions over land or the relinquishment of rights.

The newspaper expresses its belief that if Rabin wants a solution with Syria, a radical change should take place in the intransigent Israeli position, which has been the direct cause of the stalemate in the peace process in the past. The required change should start with Israel's declaration of a full commitment to the principles of international legitimacy, its resolutions, and tendencies. Israel should also abandon its expansionist ambitions, dismantle the settlements, and clearly and openly accept full withdrawal from the Golan, south Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

In its editorial, TISHRIN speaks about the Oslo agreement one year after it was signed. It says the Palestinian people are aware that the Oslo agreement was not an agreement between two equal parties, in terms of strength and will, but it was a distorted deal whose banner is the PLO submission to all Israeli conditions. According to that agreement, the PLO relinquished all its past slogans and principles in a humiliating manner. It accepted the job designated by Israel, which is protecting occupation, repressing the Palestinian people's resistance, wiping out their national unity, spreading the Zionist influence in the Arab area, and working for destroying any form of solidarity and rapprochement with Arab countries.

The newspaper adds: It is also a fact that the Gaza-Jericho Agreement has not been a step toward peace, and did not improve the circumstances for a just and comprehensive settlement in the region. This agreement made Israel even more committed to its aggressive and expansionist policy, and increased its arrogance. On this basis, Israel openly strained the Madrid formula and rejected the principle of full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. Therefore, the Oslo agreement has not brought the region closer to peace, security, and stability. On the contrary, the region has slipped into a new round of tension, violence, and instability.

The newspaper says the Gaza-Jericho Agreement did not bring, as 'Arafat and Israel claim, prosperity, welfare, security, and stability to the Palestinians, but it brought more suffering, misfortune, repression, and poverty. The paper reviews the negative effects on the Palestinian people caused by the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, starting with the aggravation of unemployment, imposition of new taxes on Arab citizens, as well as the poor security situation as a result of the reckless behaviors of 'Arafat's police, who launch broad campaigns of repression, terrorism, and arrests against the resistance factions, in addition to arresting Palestinian citizens. Furthermore, 'Arafat's police suppress public liberties, chase Palestinians, close newspapers, and clamp curfews on the people in their moves against political opponents and those who antagonize the Israeli occupation.

The newspaper says the Gaza-Jericho Agreement was a real disaster for the Palestinian people, which increased their distress and suffering, and enlarged the cracks in their national structure. The agreement gave Israel everything it wanted at the expense of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The paper concludes by saying: The facts made clear in the year that followed the signing of the Oslo deal emphasize anew that separate solutions do not bring peace, security, and welfare, but they further complicate the situation, increase the people's suffering and the danger of tension and wars in the region. Real peace is that which was drawn up by al-Asad's Syria, a comprehensive and just peace that restores rights, preserves dignity, and ends occupation and aggression.

Al-Asad Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi

JN2108194594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council and inspector general of the People's Armed Forces in Libya, at al-Rawdah Palace today.

Al-Kharrubi is accompanied by Ahmad Bin-Khayyal, deputy secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison, and Humayyid Jallud, secretary of the Libyan Liaison Office in Damascus.

Col. al-Kharrubi conveyed a message to the president from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya.

Talks dealt with the situation in the Arab arena and the region, and issues of interest to Syria and Libya.

Al-Shar' Receives Yeltsin Envoy Posuvalyuk

JN2208175494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon received Viktor Posuvalyuk, personal envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The meeting was attended by Hunayn Hatim, director of the East European Desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the Russian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Talks centered on developments in the region, the peace process, and relations between Syria and Russia.

Turkey's Soysal on Extradition of PKK Leaders

TA2208112394 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0955 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Damascus, Syria Aug. 22 (A.A.)—[Turkish] Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal said on Sunday [21 August] that Turkey has not called for the extradition of leaders of the separatist terrorist PKK [Workers party of Kurdistan] organization.

Answering reporters' questions after a tripartite meeting with Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers, Soysal said

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the meeting aimed at discussing mutual problems and to evaluate developments in northern Iraq and the security of the region.

There was speculation in the media following the capture and extradition of the world's most wanted terrorist 'Carlos the Jackal' by Sudanese authorities that Turkey would ask Syria for the same kind of clandestine maneuver regarding the PKK's leaders who are believed to be residing in Syria.

Recalling that the leaders of the separatist terrorist PKK organization are on the red list of INTERPOL, Soysal said any country where this leader hides in should surrender him to INTERPOL adding that this is an international obligation.

Speaking about Turkish-Syrian relations, Soysal said his Syrian counterpart has invited him to Damascus for an official visit.

'The visit will take place at the soonest available time,' Soysal said. 'We will discuss all kinds of bilateral problems including the water issue and problems about the leadership of the separatist terrorist PKK organization.'

He said vitalizing economic life in the southeast did not only depend on reopening the Habur border gate with Iraq but at the same time improving trade volume with Syria.

'This will contribute to the solution of the terrorist problem,' he said.

Al-Shar': Turkey's Territorial Integrity Important

TA2208184394 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Announcer-read report over video]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has declared that his country attaches great importance to Turkey's territorial integrity, adding that Syria is against separatism. In a statement to Turkish reporters in Damascus, al-Shar' recalled that during yesterday's meeting, the foreign ministers of Turkey, Syria, and Iran condemned terrorism directed against one another. Turkey and Syria share common interests, al-Shar' remarked, adding that the two countries should cooperate in line with these interests.

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India

Government Approves 65 New Foreign Ventures

BK2208162394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] The government has cleared foreign investment worth about 500 crore rupees in 65 new ventures. The empowered committee approved the proposals at its meeting under the chairmanship of the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi today. These units are estimated to achieve an export turnover of around 2,500 crore rupees in five years. The empowered committee has cleared the establishment of a fully-owned company by a Japanese electronics major for manufacturing and marketing a wide-range of items, including color televisions and broadcasting equipment. The company will have an initial investment of $10 million.

German Parliamentary Group Visits Kashmir Area

BK2208160594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] A four-member parliamentary delegation from Germany is now visiting Jammu and Kashmir. They met the governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, in Srinagar today and discussed the situation in the state. The German parliamentarians also met some local politicians and visited the central jail in Srinagar.

Iran

Turkmen President Arrives With Economic Delegation

LD2308105294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The president of Turkmenistan arrived in Tehran today at the head of a high-ranking economic delegation. He was officially welcomed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and a number of cabinet ministers.

After his arrival, Mr. Saparmurad Niyazov granted an interview to our correspondent on the objectives of his visit and to what extent the cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan would affect the stability of economic cooperation in the region. He said:

[Begin Niyazov recording in Turkmen, fading to superimposed Persian translation] We are delighted to arrive in the Islamic Republic of Iran on the auspicious occasion of Unity Week and on the eve of the blessed birthday of the noble prophet of Islam, His Holiness Mohammad, may God's peace and salutations be upon him and his scion. [end recording]

He added: During a meeting with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, we will discuss our two countries' relations. The talks will affect the economy and the expansion of the two countries' ties. He stressed that at present the two countries' relations are at a desirable level and will become better and will expand.

Speaking about talks to be held later today, to be attended by the presidents of the two countries, the president of Turkmenistan said: We are pleased that Turkmenistan's gas will be exported to Turkey and Europe via Iran. We regard this as useful work, and all countries of the region are optimistic about the project. Mr. Niyazov added: We are also pleased that the representatives from Russia, Turkey, and Kazakhstan will also be present at today's talks, and we will hold some favorable discussions on gas exports.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told our correspondent:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] When we look at the history of the region, we realize that for a major period of time the Central Asian countries and Iran formed an entity [majmu'eh], which complemented each other. These countries can play the same role again today. They can assist each other, and their progress, by supplying the requirements of each side. In this, Iran has its particular role to play.

Among the said countries, Turkmenistan enjoys a more prominent position with regard to Iran. We share long borders, which dictate that we must expand our cooperation. Fortunately, His Excellency Mr. Niyazov, the esteemed president of Turkmenistan, understands this situation very well and is eagerly pursuing cooperation with us.

We are delighted to be the host of our dear Turkmen brothers today, and we are again delighted that one topic of discussion during this visit is one of the most important joint issues of our region—the transfer of Turkmenistan's gas resources to Europe. I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Niyazov for accepting my invitation to come to Iran with his accompanying delegation. [end recording]

Mr. Niyazov is accompanied by a number of his deputies, the ministers of commerce, oil and gas, international economic relations, industries and energy, and the head of Turkmenistan's central bank.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2308124294 Tehran IRNA in English 1219 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Aug. 23, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Tuesday said that a plan to transfer natural gas from Turkmenistan to Turkey and Europe via Iran was an international project, able to play an important role in strengthening solidarity and security of the countries of the region and the world.

In his first round of talks with visiting Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov, President Rafsanjani also said "given the Islamic Republic's capability of producing gas pipes and the skill of Iranian manpower, the executive work of the project is expected to be carried out rapidly."

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The Iranian president also said that Iran, Turkmenistan and other Central Asian countries could cooperate in various fields particularly in the area of energy.

With preparation of Iranian port of Turkmen at the Caspian Sea to handle export of gas and other commodities, the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and its neighboring states would further increase, Rafsanjani said.

Hojat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani also proposed that Iran and Turkmenistan cooperate in new areas such as road building, cement production, setting up of oil refineries and exchange of pharmaceuticals.

President Niyazov thanked the Islamic Republic for hosting such a meeting in which observers from Russia, Turkey and Kazakhstan are also present.

Niyazov, saying the project would benefit Iran, Turkey and Turkmenistan, noted that international support given to the project indicated its importance for the world economy.

He also invited the Iranian president to participate in independence celebrations to be held in Turkmenistan which was accepted by him.

Senior Iranian and Turkmen officials were present in the talks between the presidents of Iran and Turkmenistan.

Larijani Sees Ties With Egypt as 'Beneficial'

LD2008134494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1240 GMT 20 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] The newspaper ABRAR today publishes an interview with Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy head of the Islamic Consultative Majles Foreign Policy Committee, on regional issues, Middle East peace, and our country's foreign policy.

On the Middle East peace negotiations, Dr. Larijani believes that the final objective of these negotiations is not the normalization of relations between Israel and Arab states; the main aim of the U.S. and Israeli efforts in this matter can be found in efforts to destroy Islamic fundamentalism and influence and to control the Islamic world.

He described Iraq's efforts to establish peace with Israel without changing its relations with the United States as impossible, even though both sides might be willing. He further said that peace between Israel and Syria is imminent. [passage omitted]

The establishment of relations between Iran and Egypt was another question put to him. In response, he said this would be beneficial to both countries. He described the main reason for its delay as the incorrect stances taken by Egyptian leaders toward Iran and Islamic movements. [passage omitted]

Official on Foreign Policy, Buenos Aires Blast

NC2208142594 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 15 Aug 94 pp 1-2

[Report on an "exclusive" interview with Mohammad Hasan Fada'i-Fard, director general for U.S. affairs at the Foreign Ministry, by an unidentified ABRAR correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] The Zionist regime has disseminated rumors about the possibility of new bomb explosions in Argentina and some neighboring countries, Mohammad Hasan Fada'i-Fard, director general for U.S. affairs at the Foreign Ministry, said.

He added: The Zionist regime wants to pursue this objective of instilling fear and intimidation in Argentina and its neighbors by disseminating such rumors to capitalize on them for its own ulterior objectives.

Asked by ABRAR why there was a media uproar about the arrest of an Iranian and a Lebanese in Argentina and Uruguay, he said: It is natural that in various places people are being arrested and released for various reasons, but this is not related to Iran.

Continuing, the director general for U.S. affairs at the Foreign Ministry said: Criminals could be getting arrested abroad. We want them to get arrested. But the news is eloquently disseminated to whip up a special atmosphere against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iranian has reportedly been released.

Speaking on the consequences of actions by the Argentine Government concerning such propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Fada'i-Fard said: Argentina's bilateral, and in particular, economic relations will suffer. Its reputation will also be undermined, especially among the Third World countries.

Regarding the reasons for Argentina's recent actions, Fada'i-Fard said: Some time ago some Argentine officials said they were under pressure for accusing a particular country over the Buenos Aires explosion. Press reports say that the judge, Jose Galeano, who is following up the file on the bomb explosion, also officially announced that he has prepared his report with the cooperation of the United States and Israel, in other words, in cooperation with the CIA and Mosad. It is easy to surmise the nature of these actions and propaganda.

Fada'i-Fard expressed the hope that the Argentine Government would exercise discretion in assessing the issue and make an independent decision. Regarding the future of Tehran-Buenos Aires relations, he said: The issue depends on the logical or illogical approach of the Argentine Government.

He declared that Iran wants to maintain its relations and cooperation with the Argentine Government within the framework of international regulations and said: This is only possible in a suitable climate in accordance with international norms and behavior and reciprocal respect.

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Afghan Refugees with Expired Permits Ordered Out

LD2208202094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] On the basis of a decision made by the UNHCR, all Afghan refugees residing in Iran whose provisional residence permits have expired on 2 July must return to their country.

Interior Minister Besharati announced this in an interview with reporters in Mashhad on Monday night. He added: Afghan refugees with permanent residence permits can stay in Iran so long as they obey the laws of our country. He stressed: Afghan refugees who have not been granted any kind of permission to stay in Iran will be treated in the same way as immigrants from other countries; that is to say, they will be arrested and deported under UNHCR supervision.

Agreement Signed With Libya on Tractor Manufacture

LD2108205694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Text] The Tabriz tractor factory manufactures 20,000 tractors per year. This level of production meets a large part of the country's requirements in this field.

During an inspection tour of this factory on Sunday by a group of Friday imams and the clergy and ulema from various regions, the manager of the Tabriz tractor making factory—while making the aforementioned announcement on the export of manufactured items abroad by this industrial unit—said: The signing of an agreement with Libya on licensing that country to manufacture tractors, export some of the major spare parts of the tractor engine to Bulgaria, and also export completed tractors to a number of African countries and littoral states of the Persian Gulf will play a fundamental role in bringing the country into the world market. Eventually, by attracting foreign currency, the export initiative will contribute toward improving the economy.

Meeting With Syrian, Turkish Ministers Viewed

NC2208074794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] The sixth tripartite session of the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Turkey to discuss the problems in northern Iraq and its impacts on the national security of regional countries concluded yesterday after a statement was issued. At the session, which was held in Damascus, regional issues were also discussed.

Three years ago, after the ending of the oil war, the international society rose to confront the Baghdad regime's aggressiveness and limited its powers in the political, economic, and arms fields. These steps, which took place within the framework of UN resolutions, led to a sharp fall in the Iraqi Government's power to impose its rule in the north and to the emergence of the self-proclaimed government in Kurdistan in that region. Also, before being a punishment for the Iraqi Government, the economic sanctions have led to the economic deprivation of the Iraqi people.

These problems in northern Iraq have adopted regional significance because of their foreign repercussions and have led to the need for coordination among Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

The most important topic that was discussed at the session was the exacerbation of the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan as a result of the recent clashes between the two rival groups—the Democratic Party of Kurdistan and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan—which have led to the death of hundreds of innocent people and have created social chaos and economic deprivations for the people. This situation unfortunately forced a large number of people in Kurdistan to migrate toward the borders of Islamic Iran.

Political analysts believe that because of the suppressive behavior of the Iraqi Government and the West's interfering policies in that country, the Iraqi people are facing an unprecedented crisis. Because of the racial, religious, and political massacres that Baghdad has been continuing for the past 20 years, the Iraqi people have found themselves contradicting their national sentiments by giving in to foreign intervention and welcoming the declaration of parts of their country as safe havens hoping to liberate themselves from domestic suppression. However, it was not too long before the Iraqi people realized that, despite their propaganda, the Westerners were not angels of salvation but had done these things to preserve their own interests and had justified their continued presence by fanning the flames of chaos in the safe havens.

The Iraqi people are fed up with this situation. Also, the problems in northern Iraq have caused neighboring countries to be threatened. Taking northern Iraq out of the control of the central government and the absence of a power that can be held accountable in that region has turned the area into a base for the training of armed illegal groups, something that has threatened the national security of neighboring countries.

This situation is why the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Turkey meet every once in a while to examine problems of northern Iraq.

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Habibi on Development Projects for Deprived Areas

LD2208175394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Excerpts] First Vice President Mr. Habibi announced that 1,945 development projects in the country's deprived areas will be completed and made operational during Government Week [starting 24 August]. These projects are in the areas of development of education, health and hygiene, provision of water and electricity, construction of rural and asphalt roads, agriculture, recreation and sports, communications, and construction of bridges in the country's deprived areas.

In an interview with reporters, Mr. Habibi also explained some of the decisions adopted during last night's cabinet meeting. [passage omitted] Mr. Habibi said that the cabinet decided to implement regional development projects simultaneously with the start of the second development plan's implementation.

The cabinet spokesman also said that a draft bill about reduction of tobacco consumption was ratified by the cabinet, after the bill had gone through the necessary legislative stages. He added: According to this bill, cigarette advertisements will now be banned.

Haste in Appraising Development Plan Deplored

NC2208204594 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 13 Aug 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Majles and the Second Development Plan"]

[Text] The manner of appraising the second socio-economic development plan in the Majles is such that it gives the impression of unnecessary haste. Ostensibly, the Majles appears to be in a hurry due to the upcoming summer recess of the Islamic Majles. The question arises: Since the Majles decisions with regard to the second development plan will have more lasting repercussions, why has the Majles chosen this particular period for its assessment when it is so hard-pressed for time? This is when most of the deputies are preoccupied with a return to their constituencies and relaxation to recover from their fatigue.

Regardless of the reason for choosing this particular time, one cannot ignore the haste in assessing the plan, especially since the Majles had postponed the plan for a year just to have more time to debate it.

It is not being disputed that the Majles deputies have paid adequate attention to reviewing the highlights, objectives and details of the second development plan and this is what is expected of them. Despite this, it cannot justify the fact that this initial awareness regarding the details and substance of the plan are enough for a quick approval of the articles and clauses of the socio-development plan.

This is especially so since there are many vital and important issues in the cabinet bill that might have varying social and economic repercussions. The raising of prices, the general direction and movement of the plan—which according to many deputies is toward the capitalistic trend—are among the extremely sensitive topics that need to be given the necessary attention. Failure to do so could generate extensive and unforeseeable problems.

Economic reforms that have been given attention by the government within the framework of economic adjustment [ta'dil] was the axis of the government's moves in the first plan. Even though there is no precise appraisal available regarding the level of the success of the first plan, the government seriously believes that it was successful. In some areas where there were some fight spots, they were not on a level to cause concern.

This does not seem to be the general consensus of opinion and there are numerous economic and planning experts who do not agree with it and view the issue differently. That is why it was stated earlier that there is no information at hand, which is required for a realistic appraisal. Hence one cannot expect that there is a strong logical relation between the first and second development plans that can be considered a cornerstone from all aspects. It should also not be construed that the two plans are entirely separate and individual.

There is no doubt that the experiences gleaned from the first plan have been utilized in formulating the second one and that development is a constant and durable factor. This is not to be ignored in planning. What is debatable is that there are discrepancies present in the data in practice and this is why the second plan will not be an exact sequel to the first plan in all aspects.

It may be argued that this is not so, that there is precise information available, and that the second plan is treading the same course envisioned in the first one. As regards objectives, this is correct. The same policy of adjustment in the first plan is being followed in the second. However, it is not clear what objectives were being pursued in this policy of adjustment and how successful it has been. Has privatization of the economy been envisaged in such a manner that it is geared to creating the necessary dynamism in the economy? What is more important is where does the economic difference lie between what we consider Islamic bases and the prevailing concept of capitalist economy, and to what extent does it ensure the true objectives and slogans of the Islamic Revolution? It appears that satisfactory answers have not been forthcoming regarding these ambiguities, at least not so far.

Some think that most of the Majles deputies consider the direction of the second plan to be more toward a capitalistic path; many would endorse that view and others may disagree. However, on the basis of existing facts there are no convincing reasons for rejecting such

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opinions. It appears that the first socio-economic development plan projected a complete leaning toward the capitalistic trend and if the same line is to be reinforced in the second plan, one must concede that there can be no clear demarcation between the Islamic economy and the capitalist economy.

The importance of this article is that the consequences of such an economy will not be different from the experiences of this pattern in other capitalistic countries. The first social outcome will be inequities between various strata and a polarization of society on the basis of the accrual of economic possibilities—a concept that has been negated in the direction enshrined in the Islamic Revolution.

As regards official statistics, Iran's economy is leaning toward a more balanced productivity on the national level. Such conclusions, which are endorsed by the government—that the economic conditions of the vulnerable stratum of society are improving and we have more privileges than in the past and, therefore, the difference between the upper income and lower income groups is decreasing—are contradicted by a glance, even a cursory one, at conditions today.

One can frankly state that is not that the difference among the various sections of society has narrowed. It is because the majority of the people feel that their purchasing power has been reduced due to rising inflation and the declining living standards, while one rather small part of the society is, for certain reasons, enjoying the maximum income and social and economic privileges.

Apart from the language of statistics, the opinions of the groups have greater veracity in society than the official government facts and figures. If we incorporate the same notions in the second plan, it is possible that this may generate a plethora of social and even political problems. Therefore, for the purpose of attention to such issues that the hasty assessment of the second development plan in the Islamic Majles seems unwarranted and there is no plausible reason for it.

Larijani on Second Plan, Economic Issues

NC1808155894 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Aug 94 p 15

[Report on interview with Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Tehran Majles deputy, member of the Supreme National Security Council, and deputy chief of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee, by unidentified RESALAT economics correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] The issue of social justice should figure quite prominently throughout the Second Five-Year Plan.

This was stated by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy chief of the Islamic Majles Foreign Policy Committee in an interview with the RESALAT correspondent. He said: This means that social justice is a definite concept to which the general public should benefit.

First of all, we must see the relationship between the level of the common man's income and the basket of his essential needs. These essential needs include food, clothing, housing, medicine and medical facilities. In general, the income of the majority of people should be in correct proportion to their needs. This proportion suffered in the First Five-Year Plan; therefore, the situation should be rectified in the Second Plan.

Larijani then stressed the need for the calculated and intensive management of the country's cash flow and foreign exchange calculations under the Second Plan and said: Management implies that expenditure should be calculated in proportion to the income of a country. Foreign credits should be planned methodically in order to manage them better and should be reflected in our foreign and economic dealings. For this purpose, a clause has been incorporated in the Second Plan that the country's foreign exchange commitments should be reduced 25 percent by the end of the Plan period. This was one of the weak points of the first Plan which should be remedied.

In this regard, Dr. Larijani said: A large amount of foreign exchange has been injected in the country's economy. Along with its positive effects, two major problems have cropped up: First, there is the kind of long-term, low-interest credit that has been used. Usance [preceding word in English] is the worst form of credit. The second pertains to the manner in which the credits were distributed.

Continuing, he said: This does not mean that we should utilize foreign credits. Instead, there should be a suitable proportion between commitments and income. We should not be forced to pledge our entire income in order to finance our commitments. Credits should be arranged in such a way that the scale of repayments do not exceed 25 percent of the country's income.

Priorities of the Second Plan:

Dr. Larijani then elaborated on the most important points of the Second Plan: In my opinion, it is essential in the Second Five-Year Plan for us to give priority to three areas: the oil industry, self-sufficiency in foodstuffs, and defense industries.

He added: The oil industry should be revived as a basic focus. In this field, our country has thousands of experts, extensive resources and more than 80 years of expertise. This industry should not be such that we only produce crude oil and sell it. Iran should become the center for a consortium of scores of large and small companies involved in the oil sector, such as in drilling, petrochemicals, refineries, undersea exploration, the manufacture of tankers, and pipeline construction; and our country should be the head of this conglomerate.

Regarding self-sufficiency in foodstuffs, he said: I believe that we must be self-sufficient in essential goods and

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foodstuffs, even if it is not economical. We should keep in view our international ecology [preceding word in English].

On the subject of defense industries, the deputy chief of the Islamic Majles Foreign Policy Committee said: In my opinion, the country's defense structure should be completely self-sufficient. It is not important that the vehicles used in the defense industries should are the most modern ones, but it is essential that the defense system use domestically made transportation vehicles. What is most important is that some tanks and warplanes should also be manufactured indigenously.

Perhaps these issues may not be very meaningful in terms of the logic of "adjustment," but they can be justified for civic reasons.

On the possibility of attaining self-sufficiency in the defense industries, Larijani said: From the industrial point of view, this is possible with planning. For example, we can draw up a plan making some of the crucial defense industries self-sufficient. Then in the next phase, we can increase the percentage of self-sufficiency. In view of the importance of this issue, we should strengthen the concept of self-sufficiency in the main defense network of the country.

The Need to Note Regional Conditions in Plans:

The secretary [title as published] of the Foreign Policy Committee in the Supreme National Security Council stressed the need to take into account the regional conditions in formulating the Second Plan, saying: In our planning, we should note that our country is a member of an international community, therefore we should take into consideration the conditions prevailing in our environs.

He added: Our country is enjoying very hopeful international conditions. Despite the hostility that is displayed against Iran, the perception of the countries neighboring Iran is generally positive. They view our country as being well-balanced, with a long-standing record of political stability. At the same time, we must not ignore the mischief that is carried out against us.

He stressed: For the sake of safeguarding our country's security, and the safety of our country's vital structure, we should carefully assess the hostile factors around us alongside the positive factors. We should not imagine that we will be able to live in a completely calm and friendly environment, bereft of any troublemaking. That is why I believe we should be self-sufficient in at least some of our defense industries, even if it is not economically advisable.

Commenting on Iran's membership in the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs [GATT], Dr. Larijani said: Membership in the GATT is an international issue with positive as well as negative political and economic effects. If Iran wishes to be an active within the international community with regard to economic issues, it should first attain a specific level of economic growth. Otherwise it will only have marginal influence. At present, we should strive to forge ahead with our economic progress at an acceptable level, so that we can attain a suitable position in the international community. At present we should not be very concerned about membership in the GATT.

Asked whether membership in the GATT could be of interest to our country, Larijani said: If membership in the GATT can ensure new markets for our investments and products, it will be to our benefit. If our joining it results in plunging our markets into unjust and unequal competition, it will be to the detriment of our country.

Subsidies and Employment in the Second Plan:

The deputy for Tehran in the Islamic Majles referred to the issue of unemployment, social welfare, and the continuation of subsidies to the lower income groups as important points in the Second Five-Year Plan, saying: As for subsidies, the Consolidation [talfiq] Commission has adopted some very suitable decisions. For example subsidies have been doubled for essential goods and pharmaceuticals will also continue to be subsidized.

He stressed that more attention should be paid in the Second Plan to employment and social welfare planning. In order to create jobs, it is necessary for planning to facilitate the setting up of smaller industries and self-employment. We should make a detailed assessment and industries that ensure a higher growth rate.

On the role of the Majles Research Center in the Second Five-Year Plan, Larijani said: This center endeavors to put the services of the experts needed by Majles committees and deputies at their disposal. With regard to the Second Five-Year Plan, due to the importance of greater centralization of operations, the center has submitted nearly 30 reports so far regarding various sections of the Plan, including subsidies for essential goods and petroleum byproducts.

Larijani added: The continuation of the policy of adjustment demands that we streamline government operations; this includes highlighting the subsidies. He stated: In principle, subsidies are not consonant with the policy of adjustment, but in fact clash with it. Of course, for purposes of expediency—that is, in order to mitigate the pressure on the weaker, lower-income stratum—it can be justified. This principle is currently also being applied to the petroleum byproducts sector.

The Need for a Review of Subsidizing Petroleum Byproducts:

On the subject of subsidies for petroleum byproducts, he said: In view of the daily-increasing growth of petroleum byproducts in the country on the one hand, and the need for greater investment and expansion in the petroleum industry, it is necessary that the issue of subsidies for this

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sector be reappraised. That is because energy consumption in Iran for industrial uses and in automobiles is not very good.

Dr. Larijani added: The above points further endorse the need for a serious revision of the prices of oil byproducts, so that the percentage of the people's income devoted to fuel and energy does not increase. The research center's findings indicate that it constitutes three percent of the people's income and could rise to five percent.

He emphasized that prior to any revision of oil byproduct prices, the condition of the various sections of society should be studied, adding: The effects that any move regarding the current prices of oil byproducts will have on other areas—such as on family income and government revenue, industry and agriculture—should be intensively studied by the Majles Research Center and the Majles should take into consideration the possible impact of any decisions it might make.

Evaluating the First Five-Year Plan, Dr. Larijani said: In many departments, the First Plan has achieved phenomenal success. For example, the government's performance in the steel industry, raising production to 4 million tons, shows the success in this field. He asserted: I inspected this factory at the beginning of the plan period and again this year, during which I observed a dazzling change. In my opinion, the factory has changed from a dilapidated warehouse to an active complex. The implementation of the right plan proves that the country's experts have the potential [preceding word in English] to carry out more extensive operations in the field of steel production.

Speaking of the importance of the steel industry, he said: Due to certain factors pertaining to national security, special attention must be paid to steel. In view of the distinctive international position of our country, it should become self-sufficient in various commodities such as in steel.

The First Plan Was Successful in Dealing With the Deprived Areas:

The head of the Majles Research Center reviewed the attention paid to the deprived areas calling it another of the successes of the First Five-Year Plan, saying: In the past few years, the government has paid more attention to development of the deprived areas and has attained spectacular success in this area. He continued: Last year I visited Zahedan and inspected an ophthalmological center to which people come from all over the country. All its facilities were completed under the First Five-Year Plan. In Iran's history, there is no record of an investment on this scale in the deprived areas.

He added: The growth shown by various indices proves that economic progress has been made under the First Five-Year Plan. However, this does not mean that we do not have shortfalls in other areas, which we should strive to eliminate on the basis of the experience gleaned from the First Plan.

The Adjustment Policy in the Second Plan:

Dr. Larijani cited the need to continue the policy of adjustment in the Second Five-Year Plan, saying: In order to take the country's economic situation to a logical and sensible level, we have no choice but to continue with the philosophy of adjustment.

He said: The policy of adjustment implies that conditions in Iran should be geared to the serious participation of the people in economic activities. All measures taken under this policy should be preceded by an intensive economic survey. The first prerequisite of this policy is that it should be carried out in tandem with a methodical program for privatization. The second requirement for the success of the policy of adjustment is that the way must be paved for privatization by ensuring the necessary security, incentives, and by providing a protectionist shield. Only in such circumstances can the policy of adjustment be considered the most sensible program for steering the country toward an economy based on the people's participation and constructive competitiveness under government direction.

The head of the Majles Research Center alluded to the prevailing climate with regard to the manner in which the Second Five-Year Plan was being appraised and said: There is no doubt that drawing up an efficient program is a difficult and laborious task but criticizing it is easy. The government has taken immense trouble to formulate the plan and has presented it to the Majles. The latter is not going to draw up another plan but will strive to amend whatever it needs to. Larijani stressed: The Majles will review and rectify the plan in a fraternal manner and in a supportive atmosphere.

Ayatollah Yazdi Appoints New General Inspectorate Head

LD2208162894 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Summary] Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of judicial power, issued a decree today and appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ebrahim Ra'is al-Sadat as the new head of the State General Inspectorate Organization [Sazman-e Bazresi-e Koll-e Keshavr].

Ayatollah Yazdi's decree wishes success for Ebrahim Ra'is al- Sadat, and pays tribute to the services rendered by Mostafa Mohaqqeq-Damad, the former head of the organization.

Sunni, Shiite Muslims Issue Unity Week Statement

LD2208174994 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 22 Aug 94

[Text] Sanandaj (Kordestan Prov.), Aug 22, IRNA—On the first day of the Unity Week (August 21-26) that commemorates the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) according to the chronicles of Sunni and Shiite Muslims and fills the span between the

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two dates, the Sunni and Shi'a Muslims in Kordestan and West Azerbaijan province today called on world Muslims to solidify their ranks against the enemies.

In their joint statement on the occasion today, the Sunni and Shiite communities here, said the Unity Week is a model of the dynamism and glory of the unity of world Muslims. They also reiterated their allegiance to the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, and pledged that Sunni and Shiite Muslims of Iran would continue to march on the same path set by the father of the Islamic revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni.

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